

Law makers:

We strongly oppose Senate Bill 365.

Current State legislation allows local Cities and Counties to develop time, place and manner (TPM) regulations to control the spread of marijuana within our communities. Deschutes County, after going through a series of public processes, developed reasonable TPM regulations consistent with the law. The Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners established a Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC), which included 10-11 pro marijuana members and 3-4 members who supported reasonable regulations, and developed and agreed on a set of TPM regulations that allowed significant development and, at the same time, somewhat protected rural communities from all of the negatives associated with marijuana production, retailing, warehousing, and processing. When marijuana had very high value, the marijuana community accepted these regulations as a compromise between uncontrolled growth and no growth.

During the same period of time, the OLCC attempted to establish rules to assure compliance with the few weak rules that they had developed. The OLCC's attempts at overseeing marijuana have failed. Audits have shown that the OLCC is incapable of the oversight. They have few inspectors, and on the east side of the Cascades they have only one. In Deschutes County there have been few inspections and the OLCC has done nothing to control a gigantic illegal black market.

Now that supply and demand have driven the price down, the marijuana industry is trying to have the TPM regulations, that they helped develop, overturned. The impacts that necessitated the development of these TPM regulations have not changed with marijuana value:

- Safety in our neighborhoods,
- Decrease in property values,
- Noise, odor, and light impacts,
- Traffic
- Visual impacts,
- Water consumption

Deschutes County feels these impacts even if market value of marijuana has decreased. The TPM regulations are needed to control this industry, which will not control itself. Peaceful neighborhoods should not have to accept foul odors, noise, 24 hour a day light pollution, increased traffic, decreased safety, decreased property values in their long-term resident home investments, wells going dry and most important of all, the exposure of our children to marijuana. The 10s of thousands of people who have lived in our neighborhoods for years, if not generations, deserve the protection of the Deschutes County TPM regulations from this recent influx of a few profiteers.

The supporters of this bill claim that this is just another crop like wheat and should be treated as such. Nothing is further from the truth. Wheat, carrots, and alfalfa do not carry the impacts that marijuana has. Supporters will claim that there should be no controls in Exclusive Farm Use areas (EFU) because these are set aside for farming. Again the truth is that there are few real farmers in Deschutes County where most EFU land quality is too poor to support farming. Urban growth has caused

residential areas to develop in most EFU zones between 5-40 acres. Most of the “farms” in these areas are residential homes that have a few hobby cows and/or horses or grow a little feed for their animals. The key is that they are residential areas where owners purchased property for the serenity. Most of these properties will not support farming due to poor economics and often inadequate water. Thus most of these EFU properties are not really farm land. Unfortunately, the regulations, meant for areas where there is still economic farming, have not caught up with the reality.

The State Code allows reasonable regulations, not just regulations that the marijuana industry wants, which are few. The high priced lawyers for a very rich marijuana lobby should not dictate how the Counties protect their residents, elected Commissioners should. Senate Bill 365 would allow this, thus we strongly support no change in the TPM regulations that our County Commissioners developed through their democratic process.

We hope you will support your constituents and voted against any changes in the existing regulations.

Regards

Sam and Carolyn Davis
Deschutes County Residents