

My name is Christine Smith, I am the founder and owner of Grön. I am one of, if not the, largest woman-owned cannabis companies in Oregon. My companies employ 105 people in four states, the majority of them here in Oregon. Last year we contributed over \$2.2M in payroll expenses in Oregon alone. Our cannabis products are one of the most popular selling edible brands in the state. Our hemp-derived products are available throughout the US, at stores such as New Seasons Market, and are proudly being distributed to Japan, UK, and the EU. Grön was the first Fair Trade Certified cannabinoid company in the US, is WBENC certified, and has garnered national attention as a Woman-owned cannabis success story from Oregon. In addition to Grön, my husband and I own a licensed Tier II cannabis grow, Skunk Valley Farm, based on 40 acres in Sandy, Oregon. The farm is an integral part of our overall operations as it grows the input material for our edible products as well as serving as the home for our family.

Back in 2018, we had an inspection at the farm, which was an invited, expected inspection by OLCC staff. At the time of inspection, a few things were pointed out as being out of compliance. We immediately corrected them, provided documentation as such to the OLCC, and were allowed to continue to operate without any restrictions and without any indication that anything was amiss. The agency even went so far as to work with us to approve alterations to the premises over the course of the next 6 months. Approximately 10 months later, we received a surprise notice in the mail stating that the agency was seeking cancellation of our license for this singular inspection. I honestly thought that there had to be some kind of mistake with the notice but was reassured through our attorneys that this was, unfortunately, not the case.

As a result, I have spent the last two years operating all my companies in limbo, unsure what the future might hold. To date, I have spent over a quarter of a million dollars to fight for the opportunity to tell my side of the story to OLCC's enforcement division, all because we seriously disagree with the allegations being asserted by the inspectors who visited our farm so long ago and believe we should have the opportunity to, at the very least, tell our side of the story. In other words, to just exercise my due process rights to save my businesses.

Our case was presented before a hearings officer a few months ago and even still, the OLCC did not bother to send an agency representative to watch or listen to the evidence presented. My case is still ongoing, and the costs continue to grow. Licensees should be able to expect that when the agency believes they are so bad that they shouldn't be a licensee anymore, that agency decision makers will listen to the licensee's side if they disagree. To be clear: Outside of that one inspection, and over the course of the past 5 years as a licensee, all of my companies have had a perfect record: No violations, no warnings. In fact, at OLCC's request in the past, we have toured out of state regulators through our facilities and are honored to continue to do so. We are good players, and we take compliance seriously.

Cancellation of our license affects far more than just our farm. It affects my ability to grow my primary company Grön within Oregon, and to obtain licenses in other regulated markets. A license cancelation should be a tool reserved for truly bad actors who endanger public health and safety. SB 408 defines these major cancellable offenses and allows the industry to work with the OLCC to support business growth and maintain public health and safety. As a multi-state operator and a national player, I can tell you that if the industry cannot find resolution with the OLCC, then Oregon will lose some of our key players as we relocate to states where there is a more equitable approach towards enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration.