

I'm writing this to express my complete support for HB3239.

The legalization of marijuana in Oregon resulted in several unforeseen issues. One of them is industrial processing being done in rural areas. HB3239 looks to correct this. Rural areas in Oregon are simply not suited for industrial processing. With limited access roads, limited or no access to water and incredibly steep terrain in some areas, emergency responders are being asked to fight with their hands tied behind their backs.

2020 saw over 1 million acres and 4000 homes burn in fires in Oregon. We all saw how quickly a small smoldering fire swept through Chehalem Mountain this Summer. We were given 20 minutes to gather all of our animals and evacuate for 7 days. Firefighters surrounded our homes, fighting back the flames with small hoses being fed from a water truck that would last for a max of 20 minutes before they had to leave and refill. Their efforts saved our homes. We were lucky while many others across the state were not as fortunate. I can only imagine what might have happened if that fire was ignited by an explosion at an industrial processing facility and had spread even quicker. What we do know is that the ethanol explosion that just happened on 3/16 in Cornelius was in an industrial area surrounded by fire hydrants and was contained. Had this occurred in a rural area with limited access and water, it very likely would have ended differently.

Let's do the right thing and move dangerous industrial processing into industrial areas that can better support them.