

Dear House Committee on General Government,

I'm Paru Mahesh and I live in McMinnville, Yamhill County. My husband Hari Mahesh and I own a vineyard and live on the property as well. Little did we realize that Oregon legalizing Marijuana would have a negative impact on our ability to live and farm on our property. The state in allowing Commercial Marijuana grow and processing in EFU zones, failed to address that EFU zones are all not alike, and the purpose of exclusive farm zones has been completely diluted with parcel splits, and tax lot adjustments.

We are dealing with a situation where our neighbor purchased a 6.7 acre property in an EFU 80 zone and is in the process of building a large Tier 2 Marijuana grow less than 10 feet from our property line and a large scale processing plant less than 300 feet from our home with two huge 80,000 gallon water tanks. In categorizing Marijuana as a farm corp, the state has failed to recognize that Marijuana is not like any other crop. People living and farming next to Marijuana operations have to deal with potentially hazardous airborne chemicals and nauseous fumes for 5 to 6 months of the year. Adding chemical Marijuana processing operations at the end of a narrow steep road with 200 yds of 4 families would make this situation even worse, threatening not only our ability to live in our homes comfortably, but our health as well. Other processing with flammable and toxic chemicals are required to be in industrial zones, so why should marijuana be different? The state has left it to the counties to mitigate these impacts. While some counties have put in place Time, Place and Manner regulations others have failed to, leaving farmers and families in rural areas alone in their fight for their safety and livelihoods.

Sincerely,
Paru & Hari Mahesh