

Dear Rules Committee,

Happy Tuesday! I want to Thank the Chairwoman Representative Warner & Vice Chairs & the House Rules Committee for making the time to listen to feedback from the industry on the devastation of House Bill 3000, and our overwhelming opposition. My name is Rick Trojan, the President of the nation's oldest and largest hemp association - the Hemp Industries Association.

Oregon has long been a leader in the cannabis industry- both on marijuana & hemp cultivation, processing and distribution. Adoption of bill 3000 would literally destroy Oregon's hemp industry overnight. Taking a federally legal substance like hemp, and subjecting it to federally illegal marijuana regulations just simply doesn't make sense, and more importantly, places unnecessary and burdensome regulations on agricultural production- to the detriment of Oregon, and it's citizens.

These same arguments and fear mongering we heard yesterday were used in 2015, 2016 regarding CBD, saying that because it comes from the flower of the hemp plant, that it's the same a marijuana and needs to be regulated as such. That train of thought was in error then, just like those arguments against Hemp Delta 8 are erroneous now. Yesterday they claimed there is a huge loophole allowing production of Delta 8 under the 2018 farm bill. Please allow me to provide some facts.

Let's be clear- this is NOT a loophole. Congress was intentional and consistent in both 2014 and 2018 Agricultural Improvement Act, where hemp is defined as "the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, **whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.**"

Congress was clear in it's intent- illegal cannabinoids from hemp ONLY include Delta 9 THC greater than 0.3% on a dry weight basis. No mention of Delta 8, or any other naturally occurring cannabinoid found in the hemp plant. This was not to provide a so-called "loophole" for hemp processors, but instead to allow for full cultivation, processing, research and development nationally. Passing bill 3000 goes against the very intent of Congress to allow hemp and all its cannabinoids, isomers and derivatives to be researched and marketed. The Farm Bills were clear, even Delta 9 THC under 0.3% on a dry weight basis, is legal. No other cannabinoids are specifically mentioned in the law.

As I was listening to the testimony yesterday I was standing on a balcony in the beautiful territory of Puerto Rico- here for the launch of the World Hemp Alliance. As I was listening I was taking in the views of the mountains, jungle, rainforest and ocean. I have to be honest, I was completely Intoxicated with the beauty of this land. Completely Intoxicated.

It occurred to me, what does “intoxication” really mean? There is no FDA definition for this word, and I was not able to find a legal definition. Many things are intoxicating: chocolate, music, alcohol & beauty.

As There is no legal definition of intoxication, it is not a good baseline from which to create laws or regulations. We need measurements that make sense, instead of an arbitrary, ambiguous term like “Intoxication.” There are methods to protect public safety without voting to destroy the Oregon hemp industry in the process.

Let’s focus the discussion on achieving real results, based in science. We are all interested in Public Safety. More research is needed on Delta 8, and other hemp derived compounds, to determine appropriate dosing, health benefits and potential risks, documented with science. . Keeping hemp derived cannabinoids legal allows better research to be conducted, so we can determine, with science, how best to move forward.

IN fact, a few scientific studies on Delta 8 are very promising. In One study, nearly twenty years ago, in 1995, Delta 8 was administered to children, with cancer, nearly 500 times, resulting in 100% success in prevention of vomiting with negligible side effects. Let me state that again- children 3-13 years old, provided Delta 8 THC with [100% success](#) and negligible side effects!

Oregon doesn’t require barley farmers to get a liquor license, even though barley can be used to make alcohol. We don’t subject barley farmers to regulation under the authority of OLCC. That makes little sense, as does making hemp farmers submit to marijuana regulations not appropriately set up for its downline products. It just doesn’t make sense.

We do, however, agree to some of the issues raised by proponents of this bill: need for appropriate labelling & adult only consumption. Let’s not force Oregon hemp farmers out of the industry by requiring marijuana registration. I was part owner of a Colorado hemp farm from 2015 to 2019, growing 4000+ acres of hemp for CBD. I guarantee if our farmers needed to register or in any way felt beholden to the Colorado marijuana regulations, they simply would not have grown hemp. I venture to bet the same holds true for Oregonian hemp farmers- they want nothing to do with weed! Passing bill 3000 unnecessarily restricts the hemp industry in Oregon and will likely force an exodus of Oregon’s hemp economy to other states that don’t impose unfounded regulations on hemp. I urge you to vote down this bill, and pass 2281 to fall in line with the USDA hemp program.

I thank you for your time and welcome any questions.