

April 20, 2021
Opposition to HB 3000-4

Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the ability to submit written comments regarding HB 3000-4.

By background I relocated my company Marshall Group LLC to Oregon as it was known as a progressive state and the best place in the world to cultivate hemp. I cultivate hemp near Ashland Oregon for CBD products that are shipped nationally.

The changes to the Oregon hemp laws as sought by HB 3000-4 would make it impossible for me to continue my business in Oregon. We are currently planting and if HB 3000-4 were to pass as written my 2021 crop would be 90% genetically illegal in Oregon.

We have had conversations with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and other groups and appreciate their concerns around keeping intoxicants from minors, but we firmly believe there is a way to achieve this goal while still allowing the hemp industry to prosper in Oregon. We have concerns in putting hemp under marijuana regulations and never being able to get back the industry we have procured.

Several years ago there were many Oregon farms growing hemp but as you now it has not been easy and only half of the Oregon farms are currently growing hemp. To weather the storm we initially had and follow all the rules to be put out of business by the bad acts of a select few, we feel is not fair to those of us who have gladly followed the rules.

We agree that there needs to be some regulatory program for intoxicants and that labeling, and age requirements should be enforced. We do not however agree that hemp growers should have to go through a 2-year process to get a marijuana producers license and if the state does move forward with this we would want to see a fast track into that licensing. Two years will make it an impossible task on most cultivators. We would also like to see the total THC limit at 1% or the highest level allowed under federal law as written in HB 2281 and which would keep us compliant with the federal farm bill.

Lastly, we do not believe the state hemp program should be included in HB 3000-4 and that moving forward industry representatives need to be seated at the table for any task force or workgroups regarding hemp regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions and comments.

Respectfully,

Jackson Haney
Marshall Group LLC