

Submitter: Cliff Thomason

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1564

SB1564-2 is a solution looking for a problem. In no other agricultural commodity grown in Oregon do we see this type of overreach. It would be like limiting or eliminating Hops growing because most DUIs are linked to excessive beer drinking. To put Oregon behind other states in the emerging hemp industry is wrong. We should be looking at ways of increasing production and profitability rather than limiting its growth. These limitations not only hurt the growers, it hurts the Hemp Handlers as well. Lower supply will lead to increased pricing in processed hemp products used by Handlers or will cause them to buy outside of Oregon. Being able to state that products are grown and manufactured in Oregon is important in the marketability of end products. We have to be competitive in this emerging marketplace. SB1564-2 will put us at a competitive disadvantage. Eliminate the moratoriums and grow site limitations.

Its interesting to note that this bill looks to possibly limit or eliminate industrial hemp yet there is nothing close to doing the same with marijuana. The overproduction of recreational and medical marijuana in Oregon is a problem that needs a solution. The Task Force on Cannabis-Derived Intoxicants and Illegal Cannabis Production is a great idea to take on this problem. Again, to diminish the industrial hemp program is a solution looking for a problem.