

Submitter: Nancy Lyford

On Behalf Of: Citizens Concerned About Cannabis Criminality

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1564

Here in Josephine County we are dealing with mass amounts of illegals grows. Many are trying to disguise illegal marijuana by claiming it is hemp and therefore legal to grow. But 53% of the so-called legal hemp grows that were tested under the HB 3000 rules failed and were on the high end for THC. Hemp is being used as a cover for large-scale illegal cannabis grows, often run by foreign cartels, according to our Sheriff. By placing a moratorium on ODA hemp licenses, law enforcement can figure out how to deal with the remaining grows that are not licensed, along with those that are licensed, but haven't been following the rules. Then the ODA can hopefully figure out how to run the program properly or hand it over to the OLCC to administer. We residents of the beautiful Illinois Valley cannot continue to live with the mess created, not even for one more year. It's been seven years already and we're fed up. The water theft, trash, human trafficking, deforestation, plastic, human waste, erosion, increased traffic on rural roads, unlicensed vehicles, chemicals, generator noise, light pollution, and general overall criminality are out of control. Law enforcement is overwhelmed and so is the ODA and the OLCC. There is an abundance of hemp available on the market and it's not being bought, but is rotting in barns and warehouses, and has been since 2019 or earlier. Please refuse to issue any new industrial hemp grower licenses for the amount of time the department determines necessary to catch up and take control of this issue. Thank you.