

Good morning Chair Golden, Vice Chair Kennemer, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. For the record, my name is Zack Troyer, and I am here as a multi-generation rowcrop farmer and on behalf of Lazarus Naturals where I manage their farming operations with a team of 16 people from Deschutes and Crook County. Lazarus Naturals is a vertically integrated hemp and hemp product company with facilities across Oregon, including manufacturing and office facilities in Portland as well as nearly 250 licensed acres in Crook County and Deschutes County. Lazarus would like to express its OPPOSITION to Senate Bill 1564, as it is written. More specifically, the proposed hemp moratorium.

Furthermore, committee members, as a licensed Oregon hemp business, Lazarus Naturals is equally perplexed by the hemp license moratorium and stands to suffer needlessly because of it. Lazarus Naturals is an upstanding enterprise which has honored the ODA rules since establishing hemp business operations in Oregon in 2015 and has not a single blemish to its name with authorities. This hemp license moratorium would punish us by restricting our ability to continually expanding farming operations or pivoting to contract farming for specialized hemp needs like we have had to do in the past. Ultimately, who suffers most are the farmers who will lose the opportunity to collaborate with us or who wish to exercise their rights to capitalize on emergent hemp farming opportunities.

Treating all hemp licenses as equal in their propensity to invite illegal cannabis operators is removed from the reality and complexity of a burgeoning industry of non-psychoactive plant based nutraceuticals, sustainable plant fibers, and nutritious plant derived protein and oil. At our operation in Crook County, this bill will prevent us from expanding acreage as planned thereby preventing us from hiring any new full time staff and realizing our goal of affordable, sustainable, and scalable CBD for all. We operate our hemp farming operation by the book and reject the implication that the only way to curb illegal cannabis activity is to enact a moratorium on all licenses.

We cordially request that this committee vote 1564 down, or at least strike the hemp license moratorium from its provisions.

Thank you for your time.