Association of Western Hemp Professionals

Hello Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am Bonny Jo Peterson, Board Chair of the Association of Western Hemp Professionals. I appreciate and thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the record regarding HB 3049. The Association of Western Hemp Professionals is a burgeoning trade group with a charter to serve the interests of hemp professionals in the western United States. AWHP was officially formed in Oregon. Our membership currently includes farm and business representatives from Oregon, California, Washington State, Colorado, North Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico.

I write today on behalf of our Oregon members to express our concerns surrounding HB 3049. This bill creates a Hemp Product Registry under the regulation of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission which we find problematic in that the Oregon Department of Agriculture licenses Hemp Processors and Handlers and should be the agency regulating a hemp product registry.

The hemp industry shares concerns of the OLCC writing rules regarding hemp products. This is not directed to OLCC staff members Stephen Crowley or Amanda Bourp but as a general principle that hemp products should remain under the ODA umbrella of regulation. A hemp product registry or having labeling requirements are not the issues. Leaving the labeling specifics, cost structure and actual registration requirements up to OLCC in rules is what we have issues with. We also want to make absolutely sure, without a doubt that hemp products will Not in anyway have rules that will require a traceability system as in the marijuana industry such as METRC. Practices such as GMP and HACCP, are well known to be the gold standard in the food industry for safety and compliance.

Thank you for your time and consideration on HB 3049. I am available and happy to answer any questions.

Take care,

Bonny Jo Peterson
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