

Submitter: Kathleen Nishimoto
On Behalf Of:
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Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for me to share my concerns with HB3194. My husband's family has owned Nishimoto Orchards in Hood River since 1942. They were one of very few Japanese who were able to get their farm back after getting out of the internment camps. My husband sadly passed away in 2019 and I just can not physically continue to farm our sixty-six acres, so I lease to a very respectable farmer who manages it for me.

I strongly oppose HB3194 as it makes us landowners liable for issues that are outside our control. This bill imposes penalties on us landowners for farm camps operating on our property, even if we have no knowledge of this. I want to continue ownership until my son's can afford to return to farm. The only way I can do that is to lease it until then. If this bill goes through, with the unknown liability, I really can't afford to take the risk and continue owning this orchard!

I do understand the importance of regulating farm camps to ensure the safety and well-being of workers and residents, HB 3194 goes beyond this and creates an unfair burden on us, property owners who are not directly involved in the operation of these camps.

Rep. Pam Marsh comment below, made me cringe. If this is so appalling and pervasive, go after these bad actors. Do not make us all suffer for their behavior!

"The impetus is we know workers have been very poorly treated on some cannabis/hemp operations, particularly illegal ones," said Rep. Pam Marsh, D-Medford, a chief sponsor of the bill.

In closing, I implore you to find more effective ways to take care of and manage these farm camps rather than burden and punish us good actors!

Thank you for your time,
Kathleen A Nishimoto
Hood River/Wilsonville, Oregon

