

Office Email
sen.kaysejama@oregonlegislature.gov

Legislative Website
www.oregonlegislature.gov/Jama



Capitol Phone
503-986-1724

Capitol Address
900 Court St. NE, S-223,
Salem, Oregon 97301

State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland, Damascus, Boring)

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in support of HB 3194, which improves protections for farmworkers who have faced abuse and exploitation at illegal cannabis grows. This bill clarifies that negligent landowners are liable for leasing their land to unregistered housing providers, makes it easier for workers to seek recourse for harm, and modernizes BOLI's penalty structure for non-compliant camp operators.

Illegal cannabis farms are Oregon's largest criminal activity¹. They drain resources, create pollution, and contribute to the importation of various illegal activities—such as human trafficking—which then spreads into other states. Illegal cannabis grows rely heavily on migrant labor and often fail to provide adequate housing for workers. Laborers on these operations may live in hand-made structures with no bathroom facilities and consistently face unsafe, unsanitary living and working conditions. While current state law requires labor camp operators to register with the state, the dynamic and secretive nature of these camps has made regulation difficult. Operators frequently disappear at the first sign of law enforcement or upon conclusion of the harvest, leaving workers with no means to receive compensation for damages.

HB 3194 shifts liability for housing violations from camp operators to landowners, who often receive cash payments under the table from illegal operations. It includes exemptions for truly unaware owners, discouraging the proliferation of illegal cannabis farms while protecting farmers who are also harmed by these operations. The bill further lowers barriers for workers seeking restitution and raises the penalty for violations from \$500 to \$2,000.

Farmworkers are already among some of the most vulnerable workers in our state; workers at illegal cannabis grows are even more vulnerable. HB 3194 is an important step toward curbing the spread of these harmful operations and ensuring that workers who experience abuse can receive meaningful compensation.

I strongly urge your support for HB 3194.

¹[In Southern Oregon, Illegal Cannabis Has Overwhelmed the Legal Industry](#)

²[Oregon to crack down on illegal cannabis growers by holding landowners responsible](#)