

WATER LEAGUE

*Water League engages the public
in water stewardship.*

P.O. Box 1033
Cave Junction, OR
97523

chris@waterleague.org
(541) 415-8010

Board of Directors

President
Gerald Allen

Vice President
Gordon Lyford

Secretary
Tracey Reed

Treasurer
Linda Pace

Christine Perala Gardiner

William Joerger

Dan Wahpepah

Executive Director
Christopher Hall

In Memoriam
John L. Gardiner

June 11, 2025

To: House Committee On Rules

Representative Ben Bowman, Chair

Representative Christine Drazan, Vice-Chair

Representative Hal Pham, Vice-Chair

Representatives Shelly Boshart Davis, Lucetta Elmer, Jason Kropf, Andrea Valderrama

RE: Water League supports HB 3194-2 and requests a simple but important addition to Section 2 relating to the presence of cannabis plants and the reinstatement of Sections 3 and 4 of HB 3194 as originally introduced.

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Committee Members,

Water League acknowledges the -2 Amendment change that exempts Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land from the joint and several liability provisions of the original bill; however, this exemption effectively guts the bill's legislative intent by shielding the very lands most commonly associated with unlicensed and unsafe farmworker camps from accountability, thereby undermining protections for vulnerable workers.

Instead of opposing this -2 Amendment change out of hand, we suggest revising the Section 2 language to state **[revision bolded]**"

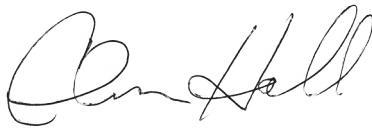
"(2) A landowner whose property is the location of an unregistered farmworker camp and whose land is not within an exclusive farm use zone qualified for special assessment under ORS 308A.062, **or is within such an exclusive farm use zone but contains cannabis plants in violation of ORS 475C**, shall be jointly and severally liable with the person acting as

the farmworker camp operator to the same extent and in the same manner as provided in ORS 658.805 (3) and (4), unless the landowner proves that the landowner.”

We understand that a substantial portion of the HB 3194-2 legislative intent is to address the serious violations related to living conditions on unlicensed cannabis farms, which [our previous March 9, 2025, testimony](#) detailed.

This bill can and should focus on mitigating harms related to unlawful cannabis operations, which require more stringent regulatory measures given [the well-documented extensive harms caused by those operations](#) compared to other agricultural operations. Therefore, we request that this committee reinstate Sections 3 and 4 of HB 3194 as originally introduced because the bill needs clear sanctions to prevent such abuses regarding farmworker housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hall", with a stylized, cursive script.

Christopher Hall
Executive Director