

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB347

YES on SB 347 A

As a citizen of Eugene Oregon, I request your support for Senate Bill 347. Oregon needs appropriate solutions to disincentivize cartels, or any other person, from engaging in criminal activities on farmland in Oregon. I do not agree with legalized cannabis, but since it is legal here, I am all for legal means of growing it. My son has told me of an acquaintance of his that has such an illegal grow/crop. This is wrong.

HB 3194, which I DO NOT support, would make all landowners jointly and severally liable for unregistered farmworker camps on their property. This bill is not tailored to illegal cannabis farms but instead punishes landowners when unregistered farmworker housing is found on the property (incl. apartments, single family rental homes, or manufactured homes). OFB does not believe that this concept will disincentivize the cartel from operating on property in Oregon, though many mom-and-pop landlords could find themselves sued for hundreds of thousands of dollars under HB 3194 if unregistered farmworker housing is found on their property. SB 347, in contrast, is tailored to the stated problem. SB 347 provides a 10-year tax penalty to farmland owners who knowingly allow the cultivation of illegal cannabis on farmlands in Oregon. It includes an affirmative defense to ensure that a landowner can retain their tax deferral if they lacked knowledge or took action to alert law enforcement of an illegal cannabis farm on their property.

Please encourage your peers to pass this bill. YES on SB 347 A.

Thank You,
Denice Searcy
Eugene, Oregon