

From: Courtney Zehring
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 4:13 PM
To: Crawford Adam
Subject: Please read before voting on senate bill 936!

Dear senators and representatives of Oregon state,

I am contacting you in regards to **senate bill 936** and the dramatic impact it is going to have on Oregon residents and ecology. We as a community are all excited for decriminalization and legalization of cannabis and the economic benefits that are projected to come along with measure 91. I for one, truly do believe cannabis should be globally legalized and that there is a lot of profit to be extracted from these changes, however gradual and sustainable progression is key to the success of this industry and our state.

The first thing i want to bring to your attention is how vastly different medical and recreational marijuana are. Recreational marijuana is focused around the enjoyment of smoking cannabis, much like alcohol and cigarettes. people are using these products to extract a sense of euphoria. In cannabis, this is achieved by high THC content. THC is the molecular compound in cannabis that "gets you high". The CBD molecule, does not, "get you high", it is the component in the cannabis plant that we understand to have the most medicinal properties. There are over 60 plus known compounds present in the cannabis plants in a class of compounds called cannabinoids. Most cannabis has both CBDs, as well as THC compounds. The presents of both of these compounds are crucial to preserving and enhancing the medicinal properties of the plant. websites, such as, www.cbd.org are excellent resources to better educate yourself on medicinal cannabis.

Why is this important in regards to senate bill 936? Because when we limit the amount of plants growers can produce under the medical program, we are limiting our accessibility to research. How can we expect growers to enhance research and provide safe medicine to patients when they are limited to 12 plants. Can you imagine trying to research, develop, market and profit off a marinara sauce recipe when you can only grow 12 tomato plants. Even if they are very large tomato plants, the lack of diversity is going to rapidly decrease your sample size, thus skewing your data and ultimately decreasing your probability of creating the best sauce. And that is the goal in Oregon, to have the highest quality, safest, most ecologically sound products we can, just like we aim to do with our tomatoes. Oregon is currently known for our small business models, our farm table organic agriculture and high quality products. Our current medical program is founded and fueled by this model. Why would we want to change that? Small scale agriculture and local business is the backbone of our state, we have made localization a commodity in Oregon, lets preserve that by keeping high quality cannabis a commodity.

Measure 91 is not designed with the small local business in mind. It allows foreign investors to bring capital into the industry. It focuses on maximum taxation at 35% and high regulation of production and sales. This is not a model that is going to produce medicine, this is a model that is going to focus on high THC content plants that are grown on large scale plantations to maximize profit margin, because lets face it, a 35% tax does not leave much room for research and development. It is a measure to literally treat cannabis like alcohol and tobacco. Alcohol and tobacco are some of the least sustainably produced products in the world and are the definition of big business. The medical program we currently have in place in Oregon is the only chance we have of preserving the local organic industry.

Monsanto and Bayer are already getting ready to cash in on cannabis. Both companies have developed genetically modified seeds that produce year round flowering plants growing up to 30 feet tall with high THC content. These companies view the cannabis plant as a vessel to extract THC. These businesses are not focused on trying to preserved lands or communities or create safe medicine, but rather are focused on large scale production and high profit margins. If you think that the ecological and economical effects of large scale California wine vineyards coming to Oregon is a problem, just wait. Beautiful preserved areas such as, Jacksonville, are literally being bought up by big business entrepreneurs looking to cash in on this cannabis cash cow. These are not organic farmers, these are not members of our community and these are not people who are going to have the best interest for Oregon at heart. If you pass senate bill 936 you are giving them the keys to the industry. It will be impossible for us as a community to compete with these companies and to maintain a safe, sustainable, quality standard. I urge you before passing this bill to do some of your own research on the subject. There are 10s of thousands of people who will be immediately effected by these changes, small businesses owners, community members and patients will be the first, but the ripple affect of this legislation is infinite. Lets work together as a community to develop a progressive bill that preserves the foundation of this industry while we still can. Please do not pass bill 936.

Thank you
Courtney Zehring