

From: Norm Rice

Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 12:01 AM

To: Crawford Adam

Cc: Sen Burdick; Rep Buckley; Sen Kruse; Rep Olson; Rep Wilson; Sen Ferrioli; Sen Beyer; Sen Prozanski; Rep Helm; Rep Lininger; Jim Bernard; Paul Savas; Tootie Smith; Martha Schrader; John Ludlow; Mike McCallister; Sen Thomsen; Rep Johnson; Shirley Morgan;

Subject: Re: Testimony of behalf of SB844-6

Importance: High

Good day Adam,

I would to present this letter as public testimony on behalf of SB844-6.

Norm Rice

Dear Measure 91 Joint Committee,

Oregon has been my home for almost 65 years. Raised in a large family of 9 children in The Dalles, Oregon we were always taught that quality of life, good health, respect for others as well as their property are something that each of us have not only an obligation to put into practice in our daily lives, but that all human beings have the right to expect such values from us. **Whatever we do in life, whether it be as a plumber, housekeeper, Realtor, lawyer, priest, or as a politician carries with it the responsibility to protect quality of life, public safety and protection of property values.**

You have a tough, but serious responsibility as a public official. Your voice, your vote does affect thousands of people in your state. You are being asked to now decide how to regulate what is still a federally illegal drug. Yes, it may have been approved by a small group of voters. **51% of only 22% of voters in Oregon is not what I would call a landslide call to action by Oregonians to now allow Marijuana to be grown throughout our state and in every corner of our our neighborhoods.** Many of those who voted to legalize this drug live in our large metropolitan communities. Should those of us in rural communities and counties who did not support the legalization this drug now be forced to support the larger grow sites and processing as well as the distribution centers that primarily will be supporting the drug preferences of those in the larger urban areas? **I urge you to please leave some matters up to the local cities and counties throughout our state. Thankfully we do not live in a dictatorship rather in a democracy where cities and counties are allowed to make their own local decisions on many matters.**

Over 15 years ago my wife and I moved to the rural incorporated community of Boring, Oregon. We purchased a nice home right next door to the largest Equestrian Event Center in the Northwest, known as the Mt, Hood Equestrian Center. Our home was built by the same original owner of the equestrian center and to this day many who pass our home on Highway 26 believe that it still belongs to the equestrian center. Over the years we would sit in our living room and watch hundreds of people from around the northwest unload their prized horses and prepare them for their equestrian events. Our grandchildren were raised in this wholesome environment and were always eager and excited to see the beauty, variety and power of these animals.

This past year, that environment changed dramatically when a new owner made the decision to lease 10,000 square feet of space to two young men from Washington so they could establish a grow center for medical marijuana. Now, we look out at something much different than the power and beauty of horses. **Our quality of life has also changed.** When we drive into our driveway, or walk our dog, or work in our yard, we are followed by a motion censored camera. At night that same camera shines brightly into our bedroom window every time a car gets close to the property. We worry about our own security since many still think our property is a part of that center. Oh, we've been told by local police and concerned friends that perhaps we should invest in a security system of video cameras and lights. Really? Is that what you now expect of us? Should we really have to now worry about whether we will be the next victims of violence because someone thinks our home is the keeper of the drugs or the money?

I personally invite each of you to come and have coffee or a meal with us and look how we are now forced to live. My invitation is serious. Come visit - watch the camera follow you. Walk with us down our road, our driveway, wave at the camera or will it be something other than a wave. Our quality of life has changed in a way you would not personally appreciate. Our concerns and our worry about our own personal safety have affected our health, and our quality of life.

Let's talk about property values. As a Realtor I often hear that the Marijuana industry will be good for the real estate profession in Oregon as investors from around the country now are beginning to look for property to farm and grow marijuana. These same people will attempt to tell me that this will be good for real estate values. I cannot disagree more. Would you buy my house if you wished to move into a rural community? Every time I ask that question I get the same response. Of course not. **And so I ask you, how does allowing a grow center as a neighbor help my property value?** For me, value is also not just about money, but also about quality of life. If the quality of my life is downgraded because of how you represent me, are you doing your job in a manner that you were elected? **Will you sit in my living room and explain to me how you are helping my quality of life? My invitation is serious and stands.**

You have a tough responsibility and I respect and appreciate your stepping forward to serve our state as a public official. I support the need for strong regulations of the Medical Marijuana program. As a brother of a veteran who has used medical marijuana for over 10 years, I have seen how it can be easily misused and abused. I have also seen how it has negatively affected his relationships with his children and his siblings. He may be free of pain at times, but his actions and abuse of this drug have not been good medicine for those around him. Perhaps if the drug was controlled like any other prescription drug we would not be having this discussion.

In conclusion, I urge you to represent all of us in Oregon. Let our leaders in our rural communities and counties join you in the forming the regulations that affect our quality of life, our rural property values and our rural safety. Our rural representatives, our local county commissioners, and our city officials have heard our voices. Give them the authority to respond appropriately. Don't shut them out.

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to ensuring Quality of Life, Public Safety and Protection of Property Values.

Sincerely,

Norm Rice

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