

Dear Honorable Representatives:

As Commissioner, and engaged in agri-business much of my adult life (B.S. Ag-Industry/Marketing, Arizona State University) from one of the counties, Josephine, that is prohibited from growing industrial hemp I am urging you not to support and pass HB 2668 for the following reasons:

I am shocked that my county and constituents are arbitrarily excluded from engaging in an agricultural enterprise that already has (unlike marijuana) a legitimate market throughout the United States in Hemp products including rope, fabric, cosmetics, food supplements, personal care products (shampoo, skin cleaners, etc.), and construction building products. The United State currently imports from Europe legal hemp seeds and products that could and should be grown here to support our economy. **NO COUNTIES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED.**

The bill arbitrarily sets a five mile "buffer." I have not been able to determine that this is based in any science. Currently there is greater opportunity for cross pollination from different strains of marijuana with people growing for medical use vs. personal use in their backyards in all areas and zones throughout our county. If cross pollination is truly the issue here, amend the bill to require ALL cannabis growers, marijuana and hemp to cull the male plants from outdoor grows and grow them ONLY indoors, allowing only female plants outdoors. This will eliminate the cross pollination issue and the reference to a five mile buffer. **ELIMINATE THE 'BUFFER' AND REQUIRE THE INDOOR GROWING OF MALE PLANTS.**

Hemp is an agricultural product; all parts of the plant; stalk, leaf, flower and seed, can be used. NONE of the plant can produce the 'high' as does marijuana because the levels of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, is far too low. The most active ingredient in hemp CBD, does not product a 'high' but can be used for medicinal purposes. As long as marijuana is illegal in ANY STATE IN THE U.S. there will be a black market that our legal system will have to deal with. **HEMP PRODUCTS ARE LEGAL IN ALL STATES (See #1 above), so let's grow it here and develop that legal market to BENEFIT OREGON'S ECONOMY.**

Again, I urge you not to pass this bill, as it is arbitrary, not based in science, and will severely limit the economic opportunities for the future of our local farms in Josephine County.

Thank you.

Cherryl Walker
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