

May 25, 2015

State Representative Carl Wilson,

HB 2668 specifically addresses farming practices in Jackson, Josephine and Douglas counties. Passage of HB 2668, as written, may unintentionally damage our robust vineyard and wine industries. The Applegate Valley Oregon Vintner's Association stands united in opposing the current draft of HB 2668 for the following reason:

- **Established vineyards to be protected by an exclusion zone.**

The Southern Oregon Wine Industry has long been established in these three counties. Recent economic data* showed that in 2013, Josephine, Douglas and Jackson counties wine industry generated revenues of \$181 million, paid \$51 million in wages and accounted for over \$6 million in property taxes. Based upon a potential impact on viniferous plants grown in proximity to marijuana plants—especially the potential for the pungent oils (terpenes) released during flowering to affect the flavor of the grapes—we would request that established vineyards be protected by a reasonable exclusion zone in keeping with good farming practices.

Such an exclusion zone should be in place at least until a study can be conducted to determine the effect, if any, that planting of cannabis crops in proximity to viniferous crops may have. Science has long shown that grapes take their flavor from the surrounding soils and atmospheric qualities present during veraison, the period when color is coming into the grapes and the skins are thickening, which gives the wine its flavor. Certain winemakers took advantage of the smoke hanging in the air in our region during the Biscuit Fire and produced wines labeled "Biscuit Fire Red"—these wines were noted for their smoky flavors.

Until we know what impact, positive or negative, large scale cannabis growing could have on Oregon's award winning wine industry, it makes sense to put into place reasonable exclusion zones, similar to those being considered for marijuana and industrial hemp, in order to preserve the profitable future for both crops.

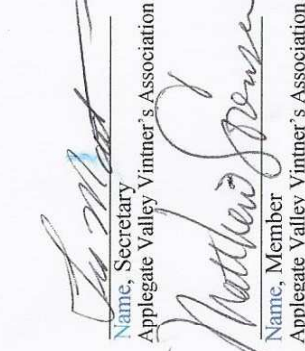
A simple, multi-year study could quickly determine the potential effects before any long-term damage is done. Currently, there is less overlap in the marijuana and wine growing regions than will be the case if HB 2668 is passed as drafted, with no protection for established vineyards. Please add to HB 2668 exclusion zones around established vineyards in Jackson, Josephine and Douglas counties at least until science can establish the facts regarding the potential impact of large scale marijuana or industrial hemp crops grown in proximity to wine grapes.

Respectfully,

Applegate Valley Vintner's Association

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