

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen:

I want to update the Joint Committee as to what happened at the OHA public meetings. While word is just now getting out to rural growers and patients about the OHA proposed rules, a huge turnout of folks still showed up yesterday. It was a message to policy makers that our responsible, compassionate family farmers care about the impacts of the rules on patients. And it shows we want to be part of a legal system with rules/regulations that are workable for us. Recent local government actions (Jackson County setbacks, disallowing outdoor grows etc.) are posing a threat to our farms, and therefore a threat to our patients. We need the state legislature to step in. We want to work with agencies, but we need the legislature to be clear about how we should do so. We must protect the Grower Patient Relationship so patients who cannot afford to purchase medicine can continue to receive it from their grower for free. Our small farmers need to be able to recover their costs from growing by transferring their excess product into the OHA Dispensaries, and into the OLCC Co-Located stores. We support regulations and reporting requirements to protect the public and patients, but they must make sense for rural grow sites without electricity and without high-speed internet access. They must be affordable. And they must not be so onerous as to be impossible to comply with.

Such intense regulations and virtually no time to allow for compliance seems as though the legislature is trying to do away with medical growsites. It is next to impossible to comply with all of the new rules and regulations proposed by the state (let alone local governments) before the next grow season begins. It is not just to impose so many new rules and regulations without allowing enough time for growers and patients to not only provide input or challenge the rules but to be in compliance. Many of the growers do not grow medical marijuana for profit and requiring so many costly changes to those growers is only going to force them to stop growing and leave their patients growerless and forced to purchase their medicine, which many cannot afford and is the main reason why they designated a grower in the first place.

These proposed rules and regulations are a smack in the face of the growers who have been compliant and following the rules to date.

Please consider all who would feel the negative effects of these proposed rule changes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sabrina Carey
Jackson County, Oregon