

February 9th, 2016

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee,

My name is Seth Crawford and I am writing this letter today as an existing Oregon industrial hemp license holder who supports HB 4060 as drafted. Oregon's nascent hemp industry is united behind this bill, which clarifies important questions for growers, handlers, and the Department of Agriculture, while maintaining compliance with the 2014 Federal Farm Bill (Section 7606). I urge you to support this bipartisan bill with a do-pass recommendation and to move it forward as quickly as possible.

Oregon's existing industrial hemp law was passed in 2009, but did not become active until voters approved Measure 91 in 2014. Concurrently, Congress provided guidance on hemp in the 2014 Farm Bill, which permits states to conduct research on the "growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial hemp" so long as the THC content of plants are 0.3% or below. While Oregon should be applauded as an early adopter of a hemp production law, the language used in the 2009 bill created implementation issues for the ODA and farmers who desired concordance with newly minted federal law.

HB 4060 updates existing state law in a straightforward way and provides regulatory clarity to ODA and hemp farmers alike. Passing this bill will provide stringent safeguards for hemp-derived consumer products, allow propagation freedom for farmers, and legitimize growing in agricultural buildings / greenhouses (critical for maintaining parental stock and producing certified foundation seed). In short, HB 4060 will allow hemp farmers to be on equal ground with all other farmers in Oregon.

The 2015 growing season was tumultuous for everyone involved. While "growing pains" are to be expected in any emerging industry, the level of uncertainty Oregon's hemp farmers have had to endure has stalled the development of a promising industry. I ask you to join 17 of your colleagues who sponsored or co-sponsored this clarifying bill and help move Oregon hemp production and research into national prominence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Seth Crawford', written in a cursive style.

Seth S. Crawford, Ph.D.  
Co-Founder, Jack Hempicine LLC  
Member, Oregon Industrial Hemp Farmers Association  
Oregon Industrial Hemp License: AG-L1035037IHL

