

Monday, January 11, 2016

GEMM Farms
Megan Graham, Owner
SE Portland, OR 97266
(503) 771-5735

Testimony of GEMM Farms IN OPPOSITION to the section of the draft rules for _____
on Industrial Hemp that states:

“(10) Industrial Hemp Product’s

- (a) A dispensary may only accept the transfer of and may only transfer a product that contains THC or CBD that is derived from marijuana.
- (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a dispensary from buying or selling hemp products not intended for human application, consumption, inhalation, ingestion, or absorption, such as hemp clothing.”

I am here to testify today about Industrial Hemp products; in general and mine in particular. The OHA should not have an outright prohibition on Industrial Hemp products. The OHA should allow card holders to transfer Industrial Hemp products into medical dispensaries. To make my dispensary clients feel safer, I still take my product testing, labeling, and packaging very seriously and follow the guidelines as outlined in OMMP Rules and Reg’s. The two main products I have on the Market are helping a lot of patients. Don’t take that away from them.

I’m following the same rules as the Cannabis producers, why are you proposing Industrial Hemp CBD infused products be left out of the dispensaries?

Therefore, I urge the OHA and any other committees that may be considering this draft to OPPOSE Section 10 of the Draft Rules for _____

Thank You Committee Members for your time and consideration in this matter.

Megan Graham

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Submitted 1/12/16

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1/12/16 MG

Chris and Megan's Testimony

4/7/15

In 2010, it became clear that Chris' mother needed a decent grower to provide her with quality medical cannabis and other products that would help her quality of life; having had multiple surgeries and major arthritis. Over the next 2 years, my wife and I gradually created the kind of quality medicine she needed. We started baking, and trying to make things like tinctures, and kief, and bubble hash. Some were yummy (brownies!) and other products failed. We started getting the hang of things!

In November, 2007 Chris was in a motor vehicle accident that severed his patella tendon. He had to have major surgery to repair the tendon. Six months later he again severed his patella tendon in almost the same spot resulting in another surgery. Over the next six years, fighting with workmen's compensation to get the not so timely ortho injections, Chris did everything he could to follow doctors orders. Over time, the ortho injections began to stop working as well as it should have for years to come. At age 35, Chris could no longer stand the pain, and consulted his doctor. At too young of an age for this type of surgery Chris needed a total right knee replacement. In April of 2014, Chris had his surgery. A month later when the opiates stopped working, we needed to find something that worked. So between the need to help with the chronic pain in his knee and his mother's arthritis, we created a topical that worked wonders. Then we started sharing it with our patients. So many friends and family members liked our topical that we put it in a convenient deodorant style stick, slapped a label on it, and called it "Rub It In". In December of 2014, Chris' job decided not to take him back, so we went full bore into making our part-time hobby into a full-time business.

We have heard many a tale from other patients who had, had a bad experience with their Growers. Inferior medicine; infrequent supply of medicine; or just couldn't get a hold of their Grower. About three years ago, we started looking for patients to share our garden space with. We formed a collective of Growers/Patients where they could help grow their own quality medicine.

With all the rumors going around since Measure 91 was passed last November, we've got a bunch of scared patients that are worried that their medicine will be taken away from them. The access they have had, to quality med's at a very, very low price. And what I mean by low price is just the cost of their medical marijuana card and Clinic fees, which can range from \$175 to \$365 or more. So for instance, the patient is getting their medicine for \$30.41 per ounce / per month. That doesn't even go to the Grower. And the Grower is supposed to make their quality meds, deliver them, and somehow get reimbursed for the cost of growing. Now as a grower, I can run down the cost and expenses. But there is no reason for me to go into that sort of detail for you today. If any of you would like a copy of our cost of growing worksheet for a small Mom & Pop Grower, we would be happy to provide it to you.

As a patient, needing my ounce a month equivalent of medicine for the month, going down to the dispensary today, it is currently \$200 for the same quality medicine we provide to our patients. And then you times that by 12 months, which is \$2400. Do you understand why my patients are scared? And then you add on top of that, the recreational prices that makes that \$200 is now going to be taxed and even more out of reach for patients on fixed low incomes.

Some of our patients are house bound. Some live in tiny apartments with rental agreements preventing them from growing at all. Another thing taking the OMMP away from them would mean is the relationships we've built over time. We don't just knock on their door, shove their meds at them and leave. We actually take the time to see how they are doing. How the medicine is working for them. See if there is something else we could do or provide in the different preparations of their medicine.

These are just some of the things our patients are afraid of losing.

I beg you to not take away my medicine, and the medicine of the patients that share my garden space.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to us.

Chris and Megan Graham

Portland, OR 97266

(503) 771-5735

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Graham".

Submitted 1/12/16