



**Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization
Public Hearing on SB 1598
Support for -4 amendment
February 16, 2016**

Co-chair Burdick, Co-Chair Linger and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Jonathan Loiterman, CEO of Green Star Growing, a cannabis grower and processor based in the Applegate Valley in Southern Oregon. I'd like to thank the members of this Committee for providing the opportunity for me to speak here today and for the extraordinary and inspiring efforts each of you have made to these important bills this session.

Part of Senate Bill 1598 creates a path for small medical grow sites applying to go into the OLCC system to be approved without a Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS). The purpose of this exception to the requirement for a Land Use Compatibility Statement from the County is to allow a degree of continuity for small, pre-existing grows to enter the recreational marketplace without being directly subject to land use review, which may threaten to shut down an operation that was operating legally in the medical program for years. We are grateful to the committee for taking on this issue, which will help small legal grow sites transition smoothly into the new system.

Green Star Growing is very supportive of the intent behind SB 1598. I'm here to advocate for a small wording change to SB 1598, laid out in the -4 amendment, to ensure that small growers who comply with all the other



guidelines will be included even if they have had some turnover with the growers working on the site over the past year. We have worked with the Association of Oregon Counties and others to come up with the -4 amendment to address this issue.

In section 2, paragraph 3, the bill states that one of the qualifications for an exemption from the Land Use Compatibility Statement for small canopies is that “EACH person responsible for a marijuana grow site” must have been registered before January 1, 2015. As written, this language would exclude grow sites which may have been operating and growing for patients long before January 1, 2015, if there has been changeover in the growers growing on those sites. We would like to respectfully request a change to the language from using the word “each” to “At least one” person responsible for a marijuana grow site or grower must have been registered before January 1, 2015.

This language adjustment is important because a qualification that requires “each” grower to have been registered before 2015 means that the change or addition of any growers after January 1, 2015 would disqualify a site. Since January 1, 2015 we have experienced some turn over in our patients and growers on our properties in Southern Oregon. If the bill goes forward without the amendment, it would disqualify us from applying without the LUCS, even though we have been legally growing medical marijuana on the same two sites for several years, long before January 1, 2015.

To make sure that our requested change has the intended consequences, we are also supportive of adding a line below the qualification point stating that “Each person responsible for a marijuana grow site located at the address first registered with the Oregon Health Authority under ORS



475B.420 prior to February 1, 2016;”. This additional line has been requested by Rob Bovett of AOC and we are happy to support this sideboard.

For my company, this change means the difference between making use of or destroying more than \$1 million in capital investment. This consensus amendment would no longer discriminate against those sites where changes or additions to the growers responsible for the site occurred after January 1, 2015. This change will help Section 2 achieve its intended purpose of allowing for small grows to have a degree of continuity in the face of land use ordinances that are changing too quickly to accommodate the OLCC licensing process for 2016.

Thank you for your time and for tackling this important issue for growers. I hope you will adopt the -4 amendment to SB 1598 and pass the bill out of committee.

For questions please contact:

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