

April 21, 2017

TO: GINNY BURDICK, Chair; ANN LININGER, Co-Chair, and COMMITTEE
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FROM: Richard and Maria Wattier, Deschutes County residents

Re: REGULATIONS GOVERNING MARIJUANA FARMS

We have been residents of Deschutes County for 40 years and owners/caretakers of a 20-acre parcel on which we raise grass-fed cattle within a half mile from a proposed cannabis facility.

We **STRONGLY** support the Deschutes County Commissioners who have spent considerable time, effort and energy hearing the multitudes of concerns from the cannabis industry and rural residents; and **STRONGLY** oppose removing or in any way lessening current regulations and restrictions around marijuana farming. This is a new industry fueled by enormous profits and, like any other industry, requires intelligent and well thought out regulations.

These farms are not producing a food crop for general consumption. They are cultivating a plant that is converted into a mind-altering drug which continues to be a controlled and illegal substance under federal law; a fact to be kept in mind when it comes to being permissive about how these facilities are regulated.

A few of the many concerns are outlined in our attached letter of March 14, 2017.

Marijuana is a drug which inherently brings with it a criminal element that is of great concern, as well as waste and water disposal management questions, odor and sound pollution, increased traffic, loss of quality of life that has been Oregon's greatest attraction, lack of Task Force agents to enforce any existing regulations, among many other concerns. To remove existing regulations makes no sense and would allow free and open access to any piece of rural property at the expense of neighboring properties.

The term "marijuana farm" seems a little deceiving as some of these facilities tend to look more like industrial compounds with semi-truck containers used as barriers, lights, fans, etc. It would make more sense to relegate them to industrial zoned sites.

In summary, we support our Commissioners in their efforts to keep and uphold current regulations. The lure of great profits makes for urgency from the cannabis industry to do away with parameters. We sincerely ask that you not succumb to that pressure and to use your best discretion and wisdom to ensure that Oregon does not become glutted with these facilities that are free to establish themselves at will at such a great price to our counties and to our state.

Attachment: Letter to Deschutes County Commissioners

Cc: Tammy Baney, Deschutes County Commissioner
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