

To the Honorable Ginny Burdick and Ann Lininger, Co-Chairs Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation,

I am thankful that we are starting to have discussions around the issues we are facing in Deschutes County, specifically

- 1) Our inability to get an **Agricultural Exemption** approved for farming structures (production and processing).
- 2) Our lengthy and costly **Application process** for production and processing of cannabis.
- 3) Our **TPM regulations** that are prohibitive to farming: canopy limits, noise, odor, lighting and prohibition of outdoor production.

Cannabis reform is about bringing an underground industry into transparency. In doing so we increase public safety, stimulate the economy and create jobs. Cannabis reform is a divisive issue, we have experienced this first hand over the last few years in Deschutes County. Cannabis reform is divisive even internally in the cannabis community, cannabis cultivation has been a way of life regardless of rules for generations of families. When we create reform that is overly burdensome, lengthy, and prohibitive we are setting up many original producers and leaders for failure. When we loose original producers not only do we loose their valuable knowledge base, but **we set a precedence that attempting to follow transparent reform is likely to result in failure.**

As craft cannabis producer, an advocate for cannabis reform, and a member from the the Deschutes County Marijuana Advisory Committee it was my goal to be apart of a process that would result in developing regulations that would be workable for farmers and for the rural residents. I really wanted to see reform created that would **retain diversity among farmers** and be an inclusive process that allowed transparent law abiding business owners to have a chance to participate. Currently this is not the case.

The land use process is preventing farm structures from being approved for an **agricultural exemption application**. I can only assume this to be an unintended consequence, because the repercussions are incredibly cost prohibitive for a farming use and in my case are just outright inappropriate for the farming structures and the farming methodology. Like any good scientist, I compared the fire improvements required on EFU land in my area to that which is being asked of me; it is really unfortunate to see such cost prohibitive measures be applied to farming in such an unequitable fashion for an unwarranted reason.

Sensitive information about one's cannabis farm becoming public record is a **safety concern**, especially for families like mine that live on our farm land. The application process makes applicants very public, from neighbor notifications, to the potential for a public hearing. My



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neighbors know who we are and what we do; we help each other and we care about one another. But to define neighbor as a property owner within 750 feet of a property line (regardless of how far away the farming use actually is from said neighbor) is simply burdensome and raises safety concerns.

The time and money it takes to prepare and get approved for a cannabis **land use application is inappropriate** for a farming use. When we couple this lengthy process with the end of early sales initiative for cannabis in 2016, it's a death sentence to a transparent cannabis business that relies solely on farming to bring bread to the table.

It is unfortunate that transparent cannabis business owners are suffering from this process. What is most upsetting however is that non-transparent cannabis producers are watching this process unfold and they see us fail. They are seeing the advocates for cannabis reform, the leaders in their community fail, not because of ability to produce, but because the cannabis reform on our local level is too prohibitive. This is how we lose diversity in producers and craft cannabis knowledge in our community.

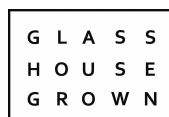
As a past science educator, I want to touch on the importance of retaining original knowledge from seasoned cannabis producers. By allowing cannabis production to be mainstreamed, we break down the barriers that once existed between producers, in addition to the breaking the barriers that existed between producers and professionals. In doing so we start to collaborate and create a knowledge base. With an inclusive reform process we have to ability to retain valuable cannabis cultivation knowledge but perhaps more importantly we retain irreplaceable cannabis genetics which directly translates to increasing our understanding of cannabis as a medicine. **When we adopt policy that is unworkable we lose diversity in the businesses that succeed**; we will inherently lose valuable cannabis knowledge, genetics and producers along the way.

Deschutes County has become a home to craft beer and micro distillery businesses. Had regulations been overly prohibitive we would not have the craft brew/distill knowledge, diversity or success we see today. Those business producing craft products have a synergistic effect on our local economy; increasing business at retail stores and restaurants, and increasing tourism.

All I ask is that our diverse cannabis community be given equal opportunity to move forward into transparency. **We need stronger farming rights to protect producers and processors or we will not retain a diverse craft industry in the cannabis space.**

Thank you for your time,

Lindsey Pate
CEO and Co-Founder, Glass House Grown



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