

Co-Chairs Lininger and Burdick, Members of the Committee,

Please enter my comments into the record supporting the -18 amendment to HB 2198.

Production of concentrates as described in the amendment are safe and far removed from concerns about other products produced by processors. As such, the expenses involved with a processor license are misplaced and effectively prevent the small scale production of concentrates. Furthermore, concentrates as specified in HB 2198 -18 do not lend themselves to mass production. The cost of a processor license alone precludes production of concentrates so it is not surprising the market is now largely devoid of these products.

Processing dry-sift or ice water concentrates would be a beneficial business for micro-producers who must struggle to compete with relatively large scale industrial grow operations. This will be especially important as prices come down in the future and small producers depend on specialty products to maintain market viability.

Producers now separate shake/trim from their flowers while the production of concentrates simply takes the process one step further employing no risks beyond what trimming flower involves. Indeed, it is likely safer since sharp trimming implements are not used! The end product contains only intact trichomes as found on flowers and trim material minus the largely extraneous plant material. Presumably, this is a healthier product, as well.

Please support this amendment given it's importance to micro-tier producers who would like to provide high quality specialty products for the market. Given the suppressed prices paid for trim by large scale processors along with exorbitant testing costs and transportation costs facing rural producers, production of specialty concentrates would be a needed lifeline for many micro-licensees.

Thank you very much.

Les Helgeson
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