
From: Mason Walker <mason@eastforkcultivars.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 9:25 AM
To: JMR Exhibits
Cc: rep.carlwilson@state.or.us; Nathan Howard, East Fork Cultivars; Joel Fischer; Aaron Howard; Jo Perkins, East Fork Cultivars
Subject: HB 2198 testimony

Hello Chairs Lininger and Burdick, and members of the Committee,

I testified last night (May 16) during the hearing for HB 2198. I wanted to share my full testimony as I wasn't able to read through my complete statement in the allotted two minutes.

Hello, my name is Mason Walker and I'm an owner and CEO of East Fork Cultivars, a Clean Green Certified, Tier II OLCC licensed farm located just outside of Cave Junction in Josephine County. We are a 100% locally owned and funded company that counts 8 full-time, year-round employees and supports dozens of well-paid seasonal workers. I'm here to voice a concern with HB 2198 dash-17 amendment.

To start and grow our small business, my partners and I have tapped loans from friends, maxed out our home equity and emptied our bank accounts. No wealthy silent partners, no Canadian venture capital, just five Oregonians pouring their heart into building an ethical, compliant and sustainable business. Our product is low in THC and high in CBD, and focuses on helping people with a range of maladies including symptoms of MS, Parkinson's, Crohn's Disease, epilepsy and chronic pain.

When Measure 91 was voted into law, we decided to apply for a recreational cannabis license so we could provide access to diverse strains of sustainably grown cannabis for all Oregonians that need it. We will be growing 37 varieties of CBD-rich cannabis this season, of which we publish detailed lab results and make available, through processor partners, in over a dozen consumable forms, from tinctures to edibles to topicals to vaporizer pens.

Over the last year, the state legislature and the OLCC has worked hard to regulate recreational cannabis. It's been a bit dizzying, however we have embraced this ongoing regulatory burden because we recognize that the rules continue to level the playing field, and serve to give us some certainty so we can invest in better equipment, pay our employees a living wage and ensure a safe and responsible industry. We've invested over \$1 million into our business, with at least \$150,000 spent on compliance alone.

As I mentioned, the cannabis we grow is low in THC and high in CBD — it's more like a craft beer than the moonshine produced during prohibition. We work hard to grow safe and clean cannabis, and we've gone a step further to get Clean Green Certified in the absence of organic certification. We've also opened dialog with B Lab to certify recreational cannabis farms as B Corps in the future — we'll be the first farm in line.

Should HB 2198 include the ability to sell medical cannabis into the recreational market, the potential flood of material would completely undermine the foundation of our business, and the foundation of other growers trying to do this right. It would dramatically tip the playing field, and undercut the spirit of the law by allowing product onto the market that hasn't had to comply with the necessary rules and regulations that have given Oregon's recreational market such a good reputation.

We're big proponents of the canopy bump-up provision, and plan to participate to help provide more medical-grade cannabis to those in need.

We'd love to help find a balance that provides access to medical cannabis and a framework for medical patients and caregivers, however allowing medical growers that haven't faced our level of regulation and compliance to flood the market would likely crush our business, and hundreds of other family farms that have poured 2+ years of their lives — and life savings — into doing cannabis right. You and your colleagues have done a great job developing a cannabis industry we can be proud of. Please don't throw away all of that good work. I hope you'll consider our plea, and remove the portion of HB 2198 -17 amendments that allow medical growers to leapfrog into the recreational market. Thank you.



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