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5 February 2018

Position Statement on HB 4089 Industrial Hemp Bill

Oregon State University supports HB 4089 - the Oregon Industrial Hemp Pilot Program and Research Act. This bill significantly improves the university's ability to conduct its federally authorized pilot research program on industrial hemp, and will allow the university to provide seed certification services for hemp being grown or cultivated for research purposes. This legislative concept provides:

- Greater alignment of State statutes with the Federal Farm Bill of 2014;
- Access to the best, productive varieties of industrial hemp seed from around the world; and
- Authorization for OSU to certify industrial hemp seeds produced in state.

Under existing state law, specifically Section 7, chapter 71, Oregon Laws 2016, OSU has had no success in the importation of industrial hemp seeds from foreign sources because of the provisions of this section. Seed suppliers read this section as stripping them of their intellectual property rights on their variety of industrial hemp grown to seed in Oregon. HB 4089 removes this impediment and enables OSU to gain access to foreign industrial hemp seed for its pilot research program.