

Salem Legislators;

I am writing in support of System Development Charges (SDS) for marijuana businesses.

Furthermore, I am writing to remind you that Deschutes County made the decision to Opt In to marijuana production **only** because of the fact that it was allowed to put “Time, Place & Manner” restrictions in place, even on land that was zoned “Exclusive Farm Use,” (EFU).

Former, Deschutes County Commissioner, Alan Unger specifically travelled to Salem to testify that because of the way rural lots in the county have been allowed to be carved up over the years, certain areas have become more rural residential than agricultural in nature. He testified that if the county was unable to institute “time, place & manner” restrictions, including on “Exclusive Farm Use” (EFU) lots, it would have no other course but to OPT OUT entirely.

A Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC) was subsequently formed to come up with regulations. The MAC was heavily represented by individuals who were either working in the marijuana industry or who served it, including the Farm Bureau President. After regulations were put in place no appeals were made by the industry.

Deschutes County narrowly voted for Measure 91, with 51.6 percent voting yes. **However, the rural part of Deschutes County voted 54.6 percent against Measure 91.**

Measure 91, no doubt intentionally, addressed only the issue of Oregonians being allowed to grow limited amounts of marijuana on their property and to possess limited amounts of recreational marijuana for personal use beginning July 1, 2015 without fear of prosecution. Nowhere on the bill did it state where marijuana would be grown, or that unlike Colorado, it would be deemed a “crop.”

HB3400 was subsequently passed behind closed doors with zero input from the general public and more importantly, **zero** input from the homeowners who have been the most negatively impacted by the bill, the rural residents of Oregon.

In spite of the large amount of public testimony from rural residents who did not want marijuana production in their rural communities, Deschutes County made the decision to Opt In. It did so only because it agreed to put regulations in place. If these regulations are going to be thrown out without input from the rural taxpayers of this county this amounts to the same kind of “bait and switch” maneuver that was employed by Salem legislators when they passed HB3400 without public involvement.

Last year the US Attorney for Oregon, Billy Williams, convened a special summit of federal law enforcement officers to address Oregon’s overproduction of marijuana. Williams stated that the market has a problem that must be addressed. “Here’s what I know in terms of the landscape here in Oregon, and that is, we have an identifiable and formidable marijuana overproduction and diversion problem,” he said. “And make no mistake about it, we’re going to do something about it.”

Given Oregon’s problem of the overproduction of marijuana, surely your efforts would be better served by reducing the number of grow operations, instead of trying to encourage more?

It is very clear that recreational marijuana is heavily favored by Democratic politicians in Oregon. Ironically, the definition of "Democracy" is the "belief in freedom and equality between people, or a system of government based on this belief." Why then do these same Democratic lawmakers think nothing of using undemocratic means to enact legislation? The people of Oregon are tired of these "emergency" backroom deals.

Please stop trying to overrule the wishes of Deschutes County's residents, this is our home.

Paula Hawes
Rural resident