

HB 2844

Les Helgeson
March 18, 2019

Chair Clem, Members of the Committee,

I am supportive of HB 2844 if amended to be consistent with HB 3086, which Rep. Gomberg introduced on my behalf.

HB 3086 was intended as a technical fix for a situation that arose when I applied for a Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) in Tillamook County last year. Essentially, the proposed use was found to be in the midst of a gray area between an outright use vs. a conditional use. HB 3086 was designed to clarify that so-called "micro-processing" is an outright use on farm land.

Our LUCS application for an OLCC *micro-producer* license was approved as an outright use in 2017 since all but one acre of our property is considered farm land. Rep. Gomberg sponsored a successful bill during the 2017 legislative session allowing micro-producers to create concentrates without a processor license from OLCC so long as we only work with our own material. It has come to be known as the micro-processor statute.

The idea behind our micro-processor bill was to help level the playing field for small family businesses who are forced to compete with large corporate interests with substantial investment funding. Furthermore, producing concentrates vs. "extracts" is a dramatically different process and is ultimately little different from producing grass seed or wheat.

Conversely, the production of extracts entails an expensive industrial process with serious safety hazards. We are all too familiar with news reports of clandestine operations causing serious injury and death.

Problems with going through a conditional use process include considerable time and expense. In addition, the process would include notification of neighboring property owners, which in my case includes the federal government. But ultimately, the production of concentrates is dramatically different from processing material into extracts and current statutes appear silent on the matter.

Tillamook County ultimately approved our LUCS application, which we greatly appreciate under the circumstances. After speaking with both DLCD and our Planning Director I offered to submit a technical "fix" to the bill we passed last session.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Les Helgeson