



Date: 3/25/2019

To: The Honorable Chair Representative Lively, Vice Chair Representative Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the House Economic Development Committee

From: Nathan Howard, East Fork Cultivars Co-founder and President, Oregon Cannabis Association Board of Directors Member, Craft Cannabis Alliance Board of Directors Member and Founding Member, Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association General Member

Re: Testimony in support of HB 3169

Chair Lively, members of the committee: for the record my name is Nathan Howard and I am testifying on behalf of myself and East Fork Cultivars, our small family cannabis and hemp farm located in Southwestern Oregon, in favor of HB 3169 related to cannabis banking and the creation of limited charter cannabis banks. East Fork Cultivars is active in our town of Takilma as well as in Portland and employs 18 full-time salaried folks.

We strongly support HB 3169. Due in large part to the inaccessibility of banking services that every single other legal industry is afforded, operating a legal cannabis business in Oregon is extremely difficult. It is not only unfair, but a public safety risk to require a legal industry to haul duffel bags of cash to pay taxes, employees, and utility bills. The reliance on cash has painted a target on the backs of cannabis operators and has made us, and the general public, vulnerable to organized crime.

I won't go into details today, but the current era of legalized cannabis in Oregon without access to banking services has caused tremendous hardship for us. Small family farms like ours across Southern Oregon support this bill. It's time to treat cannabis farms, and all cannabis businesses, fairly. Please support family farms across Oregon by supporting HB 3169.

Thanks for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Nathan

