



HB3211: Preparing Oregon cannabis and hemp for the global stage via a certification system recognizing resource efficient best practices

March 26, 2019

Dear Rep. Lively,

Thank you for the opportunity to have HB3211 be part of the House Economic Development hearing on March 13. I am writing to support your work session tomorrow.

HB3211 is about advancing the economic development interests of Oregon. Our state has a unique opportunity at this moment to position itself as the lowest-cost, highest-quality exporter of cannabis and hemp products.

Through a small investment, HB3211 puts Oregon's cannabis and hemp farms in the driver's seat as a global standard on energy and water best practices is designed and piloted. This bill will drive the following outcomes:

- Competitive *legal* businesses that generate economic development and long-term tax revenues for the State and local governments
- Assurance of energy and water resource availability to communities and other agricultural sectors as the cannabis and hemp industries scale and ship globally
- Benefits to participating farms and retailers, including technical assistance, consumer preference and loyalty, market differentiation and improved profit margins
- Decreased nuisance complaints from communities located near cultivation operations

There is urgency to support cultivation operations in bridging the current difficult market conditions by integrating best practices and preparing for the global export market that is around the corner.

In the hearing, concerns were raised about whether this bill had a regulatory or voluntary intent. To be clear, the intent is to develop a *voluntary* certification system.

Please note that we recently filed the -1 amendment to address concerns expressed by farm constituents and landowners. The amendment strikes specific language on issues such as odor and air quality. This step will foster an open stakeholder process rather than a prescriptive statutory approach.

My written testimony from the March 13 hearing is attached, in case it is useful. I ask for your support of HB3211, and I appreciate your time and service.

Very best regards,

Derek Smith
Executive Director