



TO: House Committee on Rules
FROM: Anna Symonds, East Fork Cultivars / Craft Cannabis Alliance
DATE: June 4, 2019
RE: Testimony in support of SB 582 A

Chairman Holvey, Members of the Committee:

My name is Anna Symonds and I am the Director of Education for East Fork Cultivars, testifying in support of SB 582.

East Fork is a family-owned organic cannabis and craft hemp farm in Southern Oregon with a focus on CBD. Our mission is to provide pure and effective plant-based medicine and promote regenerative, sustainable agriculture. We are a member of the Craft Cannabis Alliance, which is a mission-driven trade association for locally owned cannabis businesses.

Our farm is seen as one of the success stories so far in Oregon's regulated cannabis industry, having survived thus far in the brutal market conditions to earn a respected reputation and awards for the quality of our products. Yet even for us, the continued survival of our business is a constant challenge – and we've watched many of our talented peers fall to the numerous and overwhelming challenges facing our industry. These include onerous tax penalties at the federal level, a lack of access to traditional financial and business resources, and most of all: an artificially restricted market. This pressing issue is what SB 582 would address.

With our perfect climate and knowledgeable workforce, Oregonians have been cultivating (and exporting) world class cannabis for generations. That hasn't stopped with legalization in Oregon, and it's not going to. Oregon is part of the single most important cannabis producing region in the world – we're the nation's greenhouse for this crop, and we grow it superbly.

Imagine if all the oranges grown in Florida or all of the almond grown in California had to stay within those states' respective borders? As with cannabis, that wouldn't make logical sense – it would be economically unsustainable and environmentally responsible. Again, the Oregon cannabis industry does not have an oversupply problem – we have the problem of an artificially restricted market.

As the young cannabis industry takes shape nationally and internationally, Oregon deserves a place at the head of the table. Yet too many of our locally owned farms and businesses are struggling to survive. That's why we are pushing so hard to open new markets for Oregon's superlative-quality, values-drive cannabis trade by 2021.

Oregon has a strong history of pioneering forward-thinking policy, and we have already drawn national attention with our historic yet common-sense cannabis export bill. In this trailblazing spirit, I urge the committee to support SB 582.

Sincerely,
Anna Symonds