



June 4th, 2019

Testimony of Christopher Dolinar,  
CEO & co-Founder Pilot Farm

TO: House Committee on Rules  
RE: Testimony in support of SB 582 A

Chair Holvey, Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Dolinar, CEO & co-Founder of Pilot Farm, as well a Board member of the Craft Cannabis Alliance, a mission-driven trade association for locally owned cannabis businesses. I am here to testify in support of SB 582 A.

Pilot Farm was one of the first 15 licensed Tier 2 Producers in the OLCC recreational cannabis program. Our business and brand began with a high elevation mountain farm, rooted in sustainable and biodynamic farming practices on Mt. Ashland overlooking the Colestin Valley at the Southern border. In addition, we have pending OLCC Processor and Wholesale licenses in final review, located in Ashland and Portland. Pilot Farm is a premier craft cannabis brand, garnering numerous accolades, awards and notoriety at the state level, as well as nationally and globally. Pilot Farm is comprised of three core partners, including my brother who has a twenty-seven year career in organic agriculture - originally relocating from San Francisco CA to Ashland fifteen years ago to develop the organic foods program for Harry & David out of Medford.

It is an honor to be part of the single most important cannabis producing region in the world, a region that for better or worse, has supplied the vast majority of the US' domestically produced cannabis for generations. Amongst us, many of these farms are growing some of the best cannabis in the world, and doing so less expensively and more sustainably than just about anywhere else in the country. Aside from the ideal growing regions, the terroir, the talent and expertise of human capital here is unmatched. This perfect scenario is of great advantage for Oregon, setting an unprecedented opportunity for Oregon to capitalize on it, to become the 'Napa' of cannabis on a national and global stage. The future of the US cannabis industry is not 50 self-contained production industries, this is not how any successful and scalable agriculture crop works. It would be environmentally irresponsible and economically unsustainable. It is critical to our locally-owned industry that we are prepared to enter the interstate market as soon as the option is available, so we do not lose the human capital that is Oregon, to alternative states and countries that may provide better markets to work within.

Our view of success for the Oregon cannabis industry – and I think the view shared by most of the local industry – is a multitude of farms, processing labs, and packaged goods companies producing world-class artisan product as a global center of excellence and biodiversity, building wealth and equity here in Oregon and fulfilling the promise of this plant to this region and beyond. We still have a chance to be part of an industry like this, and we think that it's worth fighting for, and we will, as we plan to lobby and petition the Federal government for the right to access these markets.

A first step, a necessary step to get there, is for this committee to pass a bill giving the executive branch the latitude that it needs to approve out of state transfers as soon as there is a federal opening to do so. My business, our neighbors' businesses, the economic prospects of Oregon, depend on it. I urge the committee to support SB 582 A.

Thank you,

Christopher Dolinar