REQUEST TO AMEND HB 3000 WITH INDUSTRY CONSIDERATION

Our organizations support the broader goals of HB 3000 and are strongly opposed to illegal grows, cartel activities, and unregulated cannabis products reaching any markets, and want to work with our agencies and the Legislature to resolve any issues in our regulatory system that are causing these issues. However, HB 3000-5 is not narrowly tailored to meet the goals of preventing intoxicating products from reaching minors and stopping illegal cannabis grows and would have the practical effect of killing Oregon’s hemp industry.

Unlike marijuana, hemp is a legal agricultural commodity under federal law, and our organizations have been working on a number of bills this Session, including HB 2281 and HB 2671, to strengthen the Oregon Hemp Program, meet federal requirements, and address isolated gaps in ODA’s program.

Given the multiple layers of regulatory oversight, the work that our organizations have done within HB 2281 and HB 2671, and the complexities of regulating hemp processing for intoxicants, we strongly suggest that the Legislature do pass HB 2281, HB 2671, and amend HB 3000 with active involvement with industry.

We have repeatedly requested that OLCC work with us to resolve our collective concerns and make sure we are all addressing the issues that need to be resolved to ensure that there are not intoxicating products escaping the state’s regulatory systems. However, OLCC continues to refuse to engage with our organizations and industry stakeholders.

We are very concerned that OLCC’s refusal to engage industry stakeholders in developing solutions is either going to result in these issues remaining unaddressed this session or in the solutions proposed effectively killing the legal hemp industry in Oregon.

We respectfully ask that the committee AMEND HB 3000 to address concerns regarding proposed definitions, moving certain processing to OLCC, and changes to ODA’s regulatory role; and to ensure the taskforce is balanced and includes both members of the law enforcement community as well as a reasonable number of hemp growers and processors ensuring that we all have the time to design a regulatory structure for hemp that successfully tracks intoxicants and illegal grows without gutting the industry in the state.

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