

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Metzler, Founder and President of FARMS Inc. - Oregon's Cannabis Farm Advocates and Chair of the Josephine County Cannabis Advisory Panel.

One of the largest barriers to entering and expanding in our Industry is a complicated - meaning many layers (state, county, city) - licensing process. One needs to become an expert in land use, water use, city codes, ect. or have the cash to hire many lawyers.

This bill creates built in advocates with a governing body who works cross functionally to stand up for key elements of the program and is tasked with long term sustainability.

Having an equity supported place to go for education, information, and support will eliminate one of the largest barriers. In addition, current BIPOC licensees will be able to access this education, information, and support.

It should also go without saying that automatic expungement of cannabis offenses is needed and this bill will allow for the free automatic expungement of over 28,000 Oregonians.

Teddy Roosevelt said it best "Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining."

Well, this bill is chalk full of solutions.