

I am a resident homeowner and forest land owner/steward located on Chehalem Mountain located in rural Yamhill and Washington counties. I am writing in support of HB3239, that establishes common sense limits and restrictions on where cannabis and its other biproducts can be processed. Chehalem Mountain is a unique region containing homes and farms where we grow livestock, Christmas trees, grapes and in my case tall mature timber. We have all worked very hard for our properties and to produce the products from which are grown on the land on which we live. Last summer's wild fires were a frightening time in which many Oregon residents lost all that they had and we on Chehalem Mountain feared we were going to be amongst the Oregonians who were devastated by the fires. The Tualatin Valley Fire Department admitted that they did not have the resources adequate to fight the fire that was on Chehalem Mountain last summer. The timber on my land includes, maple, madrone, Douglas fir and western red cedar. An State of Oregon forestry steward recently inspected our land and informed us much of the trees on our land are considered old growth timber and would never be able to be replaced if they were destroyed by wildfire. For these reasons I urge the Oregon State legislature to approve and pass HB3239. Facilities that refine and process cannabis and other like products need to be located within industrial areas so that the local fire and building officials can provide the necessary oversight to be sure facilities such as this are safe for their workers and the communities that surround them. In addition, it is important that these refining facilities are located in industrial zoned areas where the necessary resources are available to fight a fire or explosion that may occur. A rural area with narrow winding roads, steep wooded terrain, and limited deep well ground water like what exists on Chehalem Mountain is definitely not the proper location for any industrial or refining facility. Thank you for allowing me the time to provide this testimony and I again urge the honorable members of the Oregon Legislature to pass HB3239 and help protect Chehalem Mountain and other rural areas around our beautiful state!