



27895 NE Bell Road
Newberg, OR 97132
503.537.1328
BellsUpWinery.com

To the Members of the Oregon Legislature:

I am writing to you to support the enactment of HB 3239, limiting chemical processing of cannabis products in residential areas.

My wife and I moved to Oregon 9 years ago to open a small vineyard and winery in the Chehalem Mountains. One of the things that makes the Oregon farming community special is the showing of respect for one's neighbors. Because our vineyard and winery are in a more residential part of Yamhill County, we take great pains in every facet of our operations to ensure that nothing we do would negatively impact our neighbors. Over the years, that consideration has always been returned to us in kind. We could never conceive of operating in a way that would put our neighbors' lives, livelihoods, or property at risk. Unfortunately, some operations by their nature simply do not make good neighbors in more residential settings and are best located in industrial zones.

Those of us in this area remember all too clearly last September's Chehalem Mountain wildfire (one of many terrible fires at that time). Our winery was about 2 miles from the epicenter of the fire, and in between our winery and the fire sits a Hemp Oil processing facility whose approval was controversial and highly contentious in the community. Had the winds shifted during the fire event, that processing facility could easily have resulted in a catastrophe similar to the recent devastating events in Cornelius. Because the Cornelius facility was located in an industrial area, the collateral damage was thankfully limited. However, given our proximity to the facility, such an event could easily have caused widespread damage to the region and destroyed everything we have worked so hard to build. We were fortunate not to have had to evacuate during the fires, and instead we hosted a family of 4 that had to evacuate from Bald Peak in our home for a week. Their farm and many of their neighbors' farms would likely have been destroyed by the fallout had that processing facility exploded.

There is also the issue of water usage, which will only grow in importance with the increasing effects of climate change. Hemp growing and processing by its nature uses tremendous amounts of water – the processing facility on Chehalem Mountain proposes to use 58,000 gallons of water per day, which is more than our vineyard and winery uses in multiple years. Industrial areas have the infrastructure necessary to support that rate of consumption, but in more residential areas like ours where groundwater is limited, the risks of draining nearby aquifers puts the lives and livelihoods of all nearby residents at severe and unnecessary risk.

Like so many others that have expressed support of this bill, we are not opposed to the cannabis and hemp industries. We simply want to see the processing parts of their operation located in areas that are best equipped to deal with the inherent risks of manufacturing and where resources, such as water, can be adequately supplied without impacting residential areas. In other words, we want them to be the good neighbors that we hold ourselves out to be.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Specter, Owner
Bells Up Winery