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OREGONIANS FOR FOOD & SHELTER

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A non-profit coalition to promote the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment, through the integrated, responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology.

Chair Smith Warner and members of the House Committee on Rules:

Thank you for the opportunity to share feedback on HB 3000 and the -4 amendment. Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS) has a broad membership base focused on the responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients, and biotechnology.

We note that on page 38, line 7 of the -4 amendment, this bill sets up a task force with one charge being "regulation to address genetic engineering of cannabis." A task force composed largely of elected officials and governor appointed members is not a regulatory body with the expertise or authority to develop, establish, or enforce regulations impacting plant genetics.

We also question what purpose this language serves. Is the task force charged with regulating the selective breeding of cannabis, or with evaluating whether plant traits fall into one of the five federally regulated categories for genetic engineering (7 C.F.R. Part 340)?

The task force lacks the scientific and regulatory expertise to determine appropriate regulations for the breeding of cannabis plants. OFS opposes this language and requests either deletion of this line, or clarification that this task force is not being granted any regulatory authority over plant genetic engineering.

A regulatory framework for plant genetic engineering already exists within our federal and state structure (USDA, FDA, ODA), and any regulations imposed on cannabis should align with this existing regulatory structure and framework, and reside within the appropriate and relevant regulatory bodies with the expertise and authority to engage in regulation.

Thank you,

Katie Murray Executive Director Oregonians for Food and Shelter