

Submitter: Tracey Reed

On Behalf Of: Residents of Josephine County

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1564

I live, work, and play in beautiful Josephine County. I support this bill. I believe the wild expansion of "hemp" growing is causing harm to our community and our watershed. Too many growers are using the hemp program as a cover to hide their illegal cannabis production. More hemp licenses will only serve to obfuscate the legitimacy of individual grows, complicating the efforts of law enforcement, ODA, and OWRD to protect our natural resources. Pausing licensing is prudent to give the state time and space to organize a clear strategy to deal with the problem.

The bill allows legitimate hemp growers to renew their licenses, and therefore will not harm the good players. Allowing the state some time and space to address the problems in southern Oregon will only benefit legitimate farmers in the future.