

Submitter: Jon Iverson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1564

Chair Golden and Member of the Committee

My name is Jon Iverson, and I am a third-generation family farmer from Woodburn Oregon. We have about 1,200 acres of grass seed, cover crop seed, tulips, grapes and since 2016 hemp. I writing to ask you to oppose HB 1564.

This bill punishes those that are growing legally. I agree there is in a problem in Oregon, and it needs to be delt with, we have laws in place that if they were enforced would solve the problem, what they need is more resources. When there are too many people speeding, we do not stop issuing drivers licenses we step up enforcement on those breaking the law.

I have three proposals that would help solve this problem.

First, can we establish a tip line to call in suspected grows. I know southern Oregon gets the attention for this problem, but last year I could have taken you to five different grow sights that I was fairly certain were illegal grows, I called ODA and they told me this was a county law enforcement issue, I called Clackamas Counties sheriff's office and never got a call back. If a tip line were linked to enforcement the location could first be crossed checked to see if a hemp license were even issued for the location, I think this would greatly help enforcement teams.

Second, when applying for a hemp license the applicant should have to show proof of legal water right. This would help hamper the sights that did not and were stealing water. I know the marijuana license require this and I do not believe this a big ask. Lastly, if you sign up for an ODA hemp license your sight should be open to ODA inspection any time, if you refuse you should lose your crop. I do not think officers should have to get a warrant to inspect a grow site.

I know the hemp market is flooded but we are still working with a few companies for grow contracts, limiting the number grow sites one license can have would hamper our ability to have good crop rotations, it would hurt those that took a year off to thin their inventory from growing this year. I believe this bill was well intended to stop many illegal and dangerous grows but this will only hurt those who have been following the law all along.

Lastly, I was very disappointed not to be able to speak to this bill no Tuesday, I sat through both complete hearings only to have Chair Golden make the comment at the very end that he had some changes and made it seem like he had no intention to listen to any testimony on this bill yesterday. This bill would greatly affect my farm and not being given the opportunity to speak after waiting for four hours was extremely frustrating.

Thank you for reading my letter and please vote no on HB 1564.

Jon Iverson