

2/10/22

Dear Senate Committee Members,

I live in Cave Junction, rural Josephine County, one of the most heavily impacted areas by illegal cannabis growers in our state. I moved to Oregon when I was a young adult due to the beauty of this area. My husband and I have raised five children between us and now have grandkids who live in our state also. I am a licensed clinical social worker and my husband is a veterinarian.

We are completely disheartened by the proliferation of illegal cannabis in our area. It is beyond depressing. I worked in schools for over twenty years and nowadays, there's little point in trying to get ambivalent teens to buy into the standard ideas of success (get an education and a career) because what pays is pot. Illegal pot. Crime pays way better than does getting a legitimate job or even a career with advanced degree. And, if you participate in the illegal industry, you don't lose any income to taxes.

What depresses us daily is the flagrance of it. I counted 14 likely grow sites on my approximate seven minute drive to work. The beautiful landscape has devolved into a cheap plastic riddled mess of hoop houses, plastic ground cover, torn up earth and trees, and pot plants of whatever form. My understanding is that they can get away with this partially because the 'hemp' rules, so poorly enforced, have confused all oof us as to what's legal and not.

Please do everything you can to stop this destruction to our land and vote to support the hemp moratorium.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rensenbrink