

Submitter: David Kleinsmith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1564

We faithfully have been growing hemp in Willamette Valley for each of the last three grow seasons, starting with the 2019 grow season. We have been concerned since early 2020 with supply oversaturation driving down the market price for our hemp farm products. Though part of this supply oversaturation likely has been caused by well-intentioned farmers growing more hemp than they could sell, we feel that this supply oversaturation is also caused, at least in part, by very well-capitalized operations sitting on the sidelines, leaving and re-entering the hemp market at a time of their choosing as they see fit.

We see lots of positives to the pending bill. With its limitation to permit only prior growers (e.g., those growers who grew in 2021), this bill precludes "sideline" farmers who are not strongly committed to the hemp market from re-entering the hemp market at a time of their choosing to drive down hemp farm product prices even more. With its two production site limitation, this bill amendment precludes the ugly, water-sapping multiple-hoop-house farms that have recently dotted the Oregon hemp production landscape. We strongly support the limitation to two production sites per license (and we would have to amend our 2022 hemp grower application accordingly to limit our production sites to our greenhouse and our field).

To give the limitation on production site number sufficient teeth, we urge the Legislature will consider further amending this bill to limit hemp grow license holders to be only one per mailing address.

For the foregoing reasons, we strongly support passage of SB 1564 (and Amendment SB 1564-2).