

Submitter: Timothy Fisher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB3049

I am a hemp farmer and processor. Please do not pass this without more consideration for small business. My business employs 2 people. The regulatory process for a small farmer and hemp business is already significant. We are licensed by Oregon Department of Agriculture for hemp growing and hemp processing and also food processing. That is 3 licenses annually we must have to operate. We understand why we must obtain these licenses and want our customers to know they can trust Oregon hemp products and the standards they are held to. The lack of clarity as to what an OLCC annual registration program is, is concerning because it sounds like a way for small businesses to pay additional fees and spend more money on record keeping that is unnecessary, as our products are made to the limits OLCC has already determined. We work to ensure our products are made to these limits with repeated testing.

All products and their hemp inputs are tested multiple times. We test our hemp for potency before we harvest it and after we harvest it and after it is processed for purity and potency. We test our finished products independently of compliance testing to verify our batches are consistent. We compliance test our products before they are able to be sold. For small businesses this is a significant amount of work but we understand this is to keep products safe and to ensure our labeling reflects our product accurately.

Please do not add another layer of cost and compliance without considering if it is really necessary for the producers or if will achieve any benefit for the consumer. For small, local businesses it can be difficult to compete with multi-state brands operating at a larger scale. Rising costs and the falling value of CBD in the marketplace have hit hard. Hemp can be a great opportunity for Oregon farmers and processors to thrive and innovate new natural products but only if it is not stifled by excessive regulation. Thank you for your consideration.