



**TO: Sen. Floyd Proazanski, Chair  
Sen. Kim Thatcher, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**FR: Amanda Dalton  
Oregon District Attorneys Association**

**RE: SB 162 - SUPPPORT**

February 16, 2025

SB 162 proposes that when executing a search warrant at an illegal marijuana grow, police officers may order the destruction of any hoop houses at the location if probable cause exists to believe the hoop houses are being used in the commission of the unlawful production of marijuana. For multiple reasons discussed below, Oregon District Attorneys Association supports this proposed Bill.

### **Safety**

The illegal manufacture and delivery of marijuana has been an ongoing issue throughout the state for many years. Law enforcement officers, along with Watermasters, Code Enforcement, and often Department of Human Services caseworkers, are being exposed to dangerous conditions while serving warrants at illegal marijuana grows. Because law enforcement officers are not currently allowed to destroy hoop houses, they must eradicate the illegal plants by hand. Often, tractors or other machinery is too large to be utilized without damaging a hoop house. This requires officers to walk through the illegal grows, touching plants treated with all manner of illegal pesticides, breathing in harmful chemicals, and exposing themselves to harsh and dangerous conditions. It is not uncommon for law enforcement officers to develop rashes, coughs, heat stroke, or dehydration. On at least one occasion an officer had to be taken to the hospital for respiratory issues because of exposure to hazards chemicals at a grow. This does not account for the physicality required to eradicate hundreds, if not thousands, of large marijuana trees, nor does it address the physical dangers to officers when they are made to walk through plant netting on uneven surfaces with faulty wiring and plumbing. In short, eradicating plants without damaging hoop houses is incredibly dangerous.

By allowing for the destruction of hoop houses, we are protecting those officers and civil servants tasked with enforcing the law. Limiting exposure to toxic chemicals, many which are not regulated in the United States, prevents potential health issues. This change would also allow for a reduction in the time and staff needed to serve search warrants, alleviating strain on smaller or understaffed agencies. It would prevent potential injuries to officers who must destroy plants by hand while walking through dangerous conditions and dealing with faulty wiring, trip hazards, and other dangers. Additionally, most illegal marijuana grows face multiple code violations for unsafe electrical and water issues. By destroying the hoop houses, we would ensure that those violations are no longer an issue.

### **Illegal Proceeds**

When officers leave hoop houses intact, they are allowing offenders to keep illegal proceeds. Hoop houses take time and money to build. If they are allowed to remain, it becomes quick and easy to repot plants and begin manufacturing illegal marijuana again. Clearing out the plants is simply not enough to dissuade people from growing marijuana illegally. Other crimes do not allow for offenders to profit from their wrongdoing or keep illegal proceeds. Allowing for the destruction of hoop houses used for the illegal manufacture of marijuana would make it more difficult for growers to resume operations and ensure that growers are not profiting from their illegal activities.

For these reason, the Oregon District Attorneys Association urges your support of Senate Bill 162.