

Hello, my name is Brian Nistrath. My wife, Sarah, and I are the owner operators of Green Bandit, a recreational cannabis farm. We are also members of Southern Oregon Family Farms, a cooperative of licensed producers. As the name suggests, we are a family farm, and this is how I would like you to think of me as you read this testimony. We have nieces and nephews, and twin girls of our own on the way, due just before harvest. The safety and well being of children is important to us all.

The basis for this bill, and its benefits are speculative, but its negative consequences are not. SB 1548 is harmful to small business owners, the environment, and more broadly, our economy. We can make clear connections to where this bill may even have an adverse affect with regards to child safety; SB 1548 turns singular childproof items into multitudes of choking hazards. Something every parent knows about toddlers is that things that fit into their mouths, go into their mouths. I am in agreement with previous speakers that it is much more likely an individually wrapped item be misplaced than one that is not. We may accidentally leave something packaged in a pocket, purse, or otherwise, but it is highly unlikely that same mistake will be made with a bare edible. When was the last time any of us mistakenly placed a piece of chocolate in our pockets, or a cookie in a glove box?

The economic harm this bill represents is abundantly clear. Additional packaging requirements will make certain products untenable for small businesses, which opens the door for further consolidation of our industry; a trend that always lends itself to fewer choices accompanied by higher prices. We have already heard from licensees that they will either have to stop production or lay off employees in favor of automation. At the same time, this action serves to bolsters the illicit market, and the unregulated THC-Hemp market. Neither of which are beholden to child safety standards.

The OLCC has established a robust and functional seed to sale tracking system. Cannabis is transferred from our farm to other licensees, be it retail, wholesale, or processor. This chain of custody persists from the farm to the consumer who presents ID to a dispensary before they assume custody, and the responsibility that comes with it. Cannabis becomes a potential hazard for children only after an adult has opened its childproof package and removed its contents. Child safety, as it pertains to legal adult use cannabis, is a matter of parenting and adult supervision in the very same way that gun owners, tobacco users, and alcohol consumers are each responsible for keeping these items out of the hands of children. If an irresponsible person leaves cannabis within reach of children, a cellophane wrapper does not protect that child, and in fact, I propose that the wrapper itself poses a greater risk to child safety than it's contents.

I am also concerned about the health of the planet our children will inherit. SB 1548 represents a massive increase in waste production. The edibles market already represents several million waste packages annually, and the passage of this bill will see that number jump to 50 million units of waste, or more. I find it deeply vexing that we have a problem which is not understood, and the supposed solution is to throw trash

at it and hope it helps. We will have turned a few million child safe packages into tens of millions of choking hazards. And this is supposed to protect the kids? I disagree.

Most of the industry professionals who have spoken in these hearings are parents themselves, and all of us agree: *Child safety is paramount*. Please appreciate the fact that **our** children remain safe because we understand the hazards, and we have taken necessary steps to mitigate them. This informs us of a better strategy, to focus on public education and awareness campaigns. This can be accomplished with commercials on TV and radio, along with posters, and flyers at dispensaries.

I am asking you to vote no on SB 1548.

Respectfully,
Brian