

**Comments for the Senate Committee on Business and General Government work session on 4/2/2019
- SB 365 Opposition**

Please vote no on Senate Bill 365 - here is why:

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TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER REGULATIONS

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We desperately need our statutory right to time, place, and manner regulations in Deschutes County. This statutory right was given to us by the 2016 legislature, and led Deschutes Commissioners to create the regulations they have been applying, enforcing and interpreting for the past two and a half years. Taking away this statutory right to time, place, and manner regulations would be a HUGE mistake.

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The people who wrote SB 365, namely the farm bureau, are all either marijuana or hemp growers. Therefore they are extremely biased and do not represent the interests of farmers in Deschutes County. As a matter of fact, farmers in our area do not want to have anything to do with the farm bureau because of this.

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Deschutes County only allowed recreational Marijuana grows because the county was given the right to write their own regulations. Do not let the pot people take this right away from us now. The grow ops have already sucked dry enough groundwater wells in the High Desert so that neighbors had to spend thousands of dollars to dig deeper. They have destroyed good farmland with their greenhouse farms, and brought a lot of grief to neighbors in the form of noise, odor, crime, traffic, safety, and property value declines (90% of potential buyers for the 5+ acre farms in our area are families with young children - would you want to buy a hobby farm next to a pot farm and raise your kids there? Seriously? Think about it). 6 1/2 years supply already exist and will go into the black market (where else?). Loosening regulations will not gain Oregon more tax revenue, rather the opposite. It will cost Oregon a lot of money if you do this - in the form of policing, enforcing, regulating, and fighting with people like me and the groups we had to create to protect our rights.

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I say it again: We only allowed these pot growers because we were given the right to regulate them. Do not reverse this decision now. We have already fought enough with lawyers, going to appeals, spending our hard earned money keeping these people in line. We have had sleepless nights wondering what will happen to our children and neighborhoods, our safety. Let us not have to do more of this than we have already done. We have had to form neighborhood coalitions, defend ourselves, educate the Commissioners on what is really going on.

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SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

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If you have 40 acres and grow hay you have to drive your tractor over the land maybe 10 times in the 6 month growing season, from April to September, the 6 months that the irrigation water runs. You have to areate, weed, feed, cut, bale, and harvest. Traffic is similar for other "farm crops" grown on our lands such as Alfalfa. Growing Marijuana is totally different. On a 40 acre plot you could easily have 20 greenhouses that operate year round (not just 6 months like the rest of the fields). You have to have people there every day of the year, day and night, to seed, clone, grow, operate lighting and fan and heating and cooling systems, continually tend and cut and weed and feed the plants, process the harvest, security for the plants and money (in safes with cash in them), process plants etc etc. It is a normal sight to see 20 or many more cars at any one of these "farms" at any day of the year. Therefore, it is easily 100 to 1,000 times more traffic on these "grow ops" than a regular farm. We therefore need the system development charges to support the necessary infrastructure.

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Therefore, please vote no on Senate Bill 365

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Respectfully,

Susanne Ritter, concerned citizen