

To whom it may concern regarding SB-365,

Thank you for letting me speak to why I support SB-365. My name is Lindsey Pate and I live in Terrebonne, Oregon on Exclusive Farm Use Land. I served on the Deschutes County Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC) that reviewed the proposed code that now governs cannabis farms in the unincorporated parts of Deschutes County. I am an owner of a craft cannabis business by the name of Glass House Grown, and we farm and process cannabis concentrates. I am also the president of Cascade Cannabis Association, a non-profit cannabis business advocacy group in Central Oregon. Unfortunately, I grow more and more concerned about the state of cannabis land use in Deschutes County. While I have great respect for all the folks involved in the decision making in my County, I must say that from a farmer's perspective, the process of approval for a cannabis land use on EFU farmland is very burdensome and lengthy. I believe that SB-365 is vital to preserving the economic diversity of cannabis farmers in our local area and will increase the impact rural farming can have in our local economy by lessening the many burdens to entry. I ask that you support SB-365.

Back when we, as a county, began discussing the regulations it was stated many times by the Commissioners at the time, the Planning Commission at the time and by members on the MAC, that we wanted to create an opportunity for craft cannabis farmers to participate in the newly regulated market. By charging system development fees, we are making it much harder for family-owned and operated businesses to get into the regulated market. It also puts cannabis farmers in Deschutes County on an unequal playing field with our fellow farmers in other regions of Oregon. Cannabis farmers in Deschutes County are only asking for a fair opportunity to operate in the regulated cannabis market here in Oregon; please support SB-365.

Furthermore, I believe the added protections in SB-365 in terms of protecting cannabis land use decisions in the event that a re-zoning occurs is pivotal to our local farmers. For example, if a re-zoning occurred in my area, and that re-zoning disallowed cannabis farming, my family's livelihood would be taken from us. Our cannabis brand relies on our ability to farm craft cannabis plants and it would be devastating to find new farmland after all the work and capital we have put into our property thus far. Supporting SB-365 would protect farmers by grandfathering in the use that was approved.

Our land use process should not be so overly burdensome and lengthy that it prevents law-abiding farmers from participating in a regulated system. When the State of Oregon voted to allow adult cannabis consumption, local jurisdictions were given autonomy to opt in or out of cannabis operations, and Deschutes County after, a very lengthy process choose to allow cannabis businesses in our unincorporated land. The opt-out was tough on many farmers but we got through it only to find ourselves left with regulations that were challenging to navigate. I consider my family very blessed to have received approvals to grow and process cannabis on our farmland and we are so very thankful to our County. But many farmers have not been as lucky as we have been in terms of the very public land use process. I truly mean no disrespect to the folks working hard under the eye of the public, but to me and my family, these fees feel like another locked door the county has placed in our path that we must pay for a key to open if we want to farm cannabis on EFU land.

I am happy to answer any questions and I appreciate your time,



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