

# CITIZENS VIEW



Focus-Marijuana



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**DIRECTING  
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## DESCHUTES COUNTY OREGON

**CITIZEN LETTER  
TO DESHUTES  
COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**

Dear Commissioners,  
Henderson, Baney &  
DeBone,

I am writing in response to a recent article that appeared in The Bend Source.

“Deschutes County Farm Bureau Appeals new Pot Rules” See link to article below

Even taking into consideration the fact that The Source is heavily weighted with marijuana advertising, thus hardly surprising that it is a big supporter of the industry, as a tax-paying resident and registered voter of Deschutes County I am

infuriated that the article fails to address the significant negative issues that are associated with marijuana production. Especially aggravating are the dictatorial comments made by State Representative, Ken Helm (D-Washington County). Mr. Helm, who does not reside or represent Deschutes County, seems to think he has the right to overrule the wishes of its residents.

Representative Helm and The Bend Source are angry that “Right-To-Farm” laws are not being upheld, however, as always they fail to mention the fact that RTF was originally created in order to protect “existing” farmers from “new” housing developments being built next to their operational farms and then turning around and complaining about dust, noise, etc. In

reality it is the marijuana growers who are the ones moving next to “existing” established homes and creating large offensive, commercial, operations that are generating unacceptable nuisance issues, resulting in a loss of value and of lifestyle for neighboring property owners. Why should anyone, including marijuana cultivators, be allowed to move next to another property owner and then systematically destroy that person’s property values and quality of life?

State Representative, Helm is “outraged” that Deschutes County has stricter regulations than other counties for marijuana production and is threatening that the State will punish Deschutes County by ordering a complete removal of

### OREGON

**FIELDS OF DRYING HEMP IN BEND CAUSE A STINK**

“I was astonished to find this pile of, I thought, marijuana,” Stone said. “So I called the (Deschutes County) Sheriff’s (Office).” Deputies later confirmed that the field was hemp, not marijuana, and was legally allowed to be there.

“I hope they remove it - the smell is terrible,” Stone said. “I think we should have some right whether or not we’re subjected to this ugly smell.”



# LETTER TO DESCHUTES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

these regulations. Mr. Helm needs to be told, in no uncertain terms, to stop interfering in the wishes of the rural taxpayers and residents of Deschutes. Over time the county has enjoyed a considerable increase in revenue from property taxes by allowing lots to be chopped up into smaller parcels, many of these smaller lots surround larger EFU ones. As such, areas like Tumalo have become more rural/residential in nature and people who have acquired homes in these areas have done so because there is little expectation of farming operations like the pig farms the marijuana industry is so fond of telling us about setting up next to their homes. Furthermore, these rural residences, unlike marijuana cultivators, generally do not get to reduce their property taxes by claiming "farm deferral" deductions, thereby contributing more tax revenue to the county.

Mr. Helm seems to think he can shake down our county officials and intimidate you, our Commissioners, into relaxing regulations for growing marijuana, which is explicitly against the wishes of most rural residents in Deschutes County. Helm said the simplest way to enforce the growing rules statewide would be to take the carve-outs away from counties. "Because what would

happen is you'd just go back down to the general rules, which is activities on farm land you are entitled to essentially create those nuisance conditions and nearby non-farm users cannot complain," Helm said. "They're foreclosed from bringing any sort of real actionable complaint. It just sends this back to where we were before 2015."

Representative Helm is so apparently in the pocket of the marijuana industry he can't comprehend that the majority of rural voters in Deschutes County have made it very clear that they do not want marijuana production in their communities. Unfortunately, although Measure 91 addressing recreational marijuana use was put to public vote, the issue of where marijuana could be cultivated was not. Unlike Colorado where marijuana is primarily grown in industrial areas, Oregon legislators like Mr. Helm bent over backwards to accommodate the marijuana industry. HB3400 was created behind closed doors by Salem legislators who don't own property in our county and who are happily taking large donations from the marijuana industry for their own personal gain.

Subsequent to the passing of HB3400 Deschutes County made the decision not to send out written notification to rural homeowners informing them that marijuana would be classified as a crop and potentially grown next to their homes. Even without sufficient public notification the county received a large amount of verbal and written testimony from residents begging the county to Opt Out. Unfortunately, the county overruled these residents wishes and decided to Opt In, with the condition that they could place reasonable time, place and manner regulations on all lands, including EFU.

Far from being "good" neighbors the marijuana industry regularly seems to generate complaints from those who have found themselves forced to live next door to a grow. Oppressive odor that permeates everything, noise from multiple heat pumps mere feet from someone's rural residence and the very real potential of having your well go dry because your marijuana neighbor is pumping the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of gallons of groundwater year-round, even though most agricultural

"crops" are using seasonal, surface water rights. Not

to mention the considerable increase in traffic coming and going at all hours turning

what once was a quiet neighborhood into a commercial zone. The more grows that have been licensed the more push back there has been from the public. Many of the concerns that were expressed in the initial public hearings have come to fruition. A recent report from the OLCC gave the Deschutes County marijuana industry only a 55% compliance rate and threatened to pull the licenses of a couple of growers.

As a State Representative, Mr. Helm should start respecting his position of authority by looking out for the interests of **all** citizens, at the very least he should stick to “serving” the marijuana industry and voters of the City of Beaverton and neighborhoods of West Haven, Cedar Hills and Rock Creek who elected him. In short, the marijuana industry and Representative Helm should stop trying to overrule the wishes of the residents of Deschutes

County. If they continue to try to strong-arm the County by threatening to have the State override the marijuana regulations that were put in place for the protection of our county’s residents, then the entire issue needs to be put back on the drawing board and the county should allow the matter of marijuana production to be decided once and for all by a vote of its residents. It would be extremely undemocratic for the county to Opt In to marijuana production on the grounds that regulations could be put in place, including on EFU properties, and then renege on this decision. The wishes of a special interest group and a handful of self-serving politicians should not take precedence over the desires of the majority of residents of a county.

If Representative Helm and a handful of disgruntled marijuana growers (some who sit on the Boards of organizations such as the Farm Bureau), use their positions of power to wield regulations that benefit their own financial interests and are now unhappy about current regulations enacted to protect the rights of rural homeowners, they always have the option to locate their operations elsewhere.

The rural residents of Deschutes County have spoken and they have rejected pro-pot, Democrat, County Commissioner candidates. **It is highly likely they would vote to stop all marijuana production in rural areas if given the chance.** Mr. Helm and the marijuana industry should be careful of protesting too much. I for one sincerely hope that the county stands firm on this issue. *(written by a Deschutes County resident and sent to Deschutes County Commissioners.*

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**WATCH**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SITIVcG6shY>

# THIS IS A MISUSE OF RURAL OREGON FARMLAND



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## CONNECTIONS

- Monthly Connections
- Quarterly Citizen View Newsletter
- Quarterly Community Educational Forums –Focus Marijuana
- Annual Nat'l Safe Drug Policy Summit-Focus Marijuana –**APRIL 2020**
- Web Trainings
- Small groups meetings



We believe we are socially responsible for preserving public safety, quality of life, and protection of property values on behalf of our communities and for the legacy of our children.



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## COMMERCIAL POT

### Is industrializing Rural Oregon

In **Clackamas County** there are over 554 marijuana land use applications that have been applied for since January of 2016, 98% of those are for marijuana production. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission who issues marijuana licenses issues more than one license on one tract of land or at one site address, therefore allowing the marijuana industry to set up a multi-licensed **lease** a steel grow building or greenhouse site, turning 20 to 40 acre pastures into industrialized complexes.

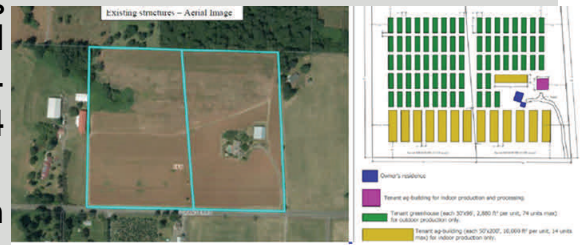
**267,264 sq. ft with 54 buildings** on 20 acres includes indoor growing, processing and hemp production  
10770 SE 362nd-Boring



**300,000 sq. ft with 56 buildings** on 40 acres for indoor production  
11512 S. Barnards Rd-Molalla



**358,000 sq. ft. with 89 buildings** on 26 acres that includes processing and indoor and outdoor production in over 74 greenhouses  
15171 S. Spangler-Oregon City



**687,720 sq. ft. with 58 buildings** on 19 acres for indoor and outdoor production in over 15 buildings-33 greenhouses 10 8 x 40 cargo containers  
14289 S. Vaughn Rd Molalla

