

Thank you, Mr. President.

This was a difficult vote for me. On the one hand, I strongly support Oregon's farmers. Industrial hemp is an exciting crop with amazing growth potential and a wide range of marketable uses. Hemp crops can and should be a major export commodity for our state.

On the other hand, we have a real problem with illegal cannabis grows. I grew up in Southern Oregon and have seen firsthand the social and environmental degradation that comes with unchecked large-scale illicit marijuana grows, sometimes hiding in plain sight in hemp fields.

I voted yes, so we can have a pause to get illegal grows under control. I was persuaded by the sunset in this bill, and look forward to supporting Oregon's legal hemp industry moving forward.

Thank you.

Senator Rachel Armitage