



SENATE

February 17th

Lori L. Brocker  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol Building, 233  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Vote explanation on Senate Bill 1564

Hemp became fully operational in Oregon in 2015, since that time the industry has seen growth year after year, with the exception of a significant decrease in 2020 due to the economic uncertainties wrought by COVID-19. As an emerging industry, the demand for hemp continues to grow across varying market segments inclusive of everything from therapeutic treatments to industrial applications. Everyday people in our communities are using hemp as an avenue to start small businesses; our local farmers are using hemp as a rotational crop to fortify their futures; and our BIPOC entrepreneurs are utilizing hemp to create generational wealth for their families and enter the federal hemp market.

Estimates from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, posit that around 50% of hemp grow sites reside in the counties who are more than likely to take advantage of the moratorium created by SB1564. Without the analysis necessary to inform us of the true economic impacts a moratorium created by SB1564 would have on our small farmers, our positioning in the national hemp industry and our state economy overall, or evidence to prove that it would indeed curb illicit grows, I could not in good faith produce an aye vote on this bill.

Oregon State Senator Akasha Lawrence Spence  
District 18 - North/Southwest Portland and The City of Tigard