

To the Mayor and City Council of Ashland,

Thank you to the Planning Commission for your hard work on this topic to bring this proposal to the City Council. Thank you too the City Council for hearing public testimony on this subject today. This is a subject that is very important to me. I have lived in and/or owned property in Ashland for the past 15 years. I have been a Medical Marijuana Grower in Ashland, licensed by the Oregon Health Authority by means of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act for the past 5 years.

I am here today because of the proposed regulations brought by the Planning Commission are potentially detrimental to the growers producing Marijuana and patients receiving safe, local, tax free access to medicine that helps with their ailments. By restricting how much and where we can grow, on top of what the state has already legislated, you will be pushing the local safe access to patient's cannabis outside of Ashland. If patients lose their growers because of new land use ordinances proposed by the Commission, patients will have to decide between paying retail prices at dispensaries or find new growers outside of Ashland. These are not easy options for sick people with ailments like cancer, Alzheimer's, chronic pain or seizures.

I urge you today to not limit the outdoor production of Medical Marijuana. I have read the letters from the community complaining about the odors from their back porch or in their children's bedroom. I am here to tell you that in the 5 years I have been producing in Ashland, to my knowledge, I have not received a complaint from neighbors based on odor. I am confident that if I did, I would take the necessary steps to correct the issue, as I'm sure most would. Please give the community of growers the option to correct the complaints from neighbors. Outright restrictions are detrimental to the system that is already in place and working for so many. I feel that the Planning Commission is basing recommendation in part on these complaints and I would like you to take into account that these complaints represent a small fraction of the Medical Marijuana production in the city. Additionally I challenge the Commission to tell any Ashlander with a large vegetable garden that they need to grow fewer vegetables because their property is not intended for agricultural use, as they have suggested in their report. Please tailor the regulation to the complaints, allow time for correcting issues, and do not further restrict outdoor plant counts or enact garden setbacks.

Finally, the Commission has recommended limitations on licensed commercial growing to 5,000-sqft from the state maximum of 10,000-sqft. I again challenge the Commission to explain how indoor Marijuana production appears to be a "land intensive use" and where they can reference reports describing 100,000-sqft operations with only a few employees. Based on the size of legal, medical grows I have seen, I cannot even imagine the workforce a 100,000-sqft, 2.3 acre indoor facility would employ. Not to mention the positive economic trickle down effect it would have on the local economy and added tax dollars to the OLCC funds. Funds that go to schools, mental health and drug services, police, cities, counties and the Oregon health authority. Because of limited space and zoning, I'm not sure that there ever would be a 10,000-sqft indoor production facility in

Ashland. But by outright saying that it can't exist, limits the economic potential of the fastest growing industry in Oregon, and the United States.

To recap, I urge the Council to vote against proposed ordinances limiting the number of outdoor medical plants, enacting garden setbacks and limiting square footage of licensed commercial production facilities beyond current state regulations.