

## Public Comments for HB 2281

Save Chehalem Mountain is non-profit organization with the mission to ensure that the vast Regional "Chehalem Mountain Ground Water Limited Area" provides the quality and quantity of water needed for environmental stability & fire protection necessary to support the thousands of homes & businesses, wildlife, recreation, biological diversity, ecological values, public health and a sound economy for the future. (No water = no home values and ability to collect property taxes). See map on next page.

Due to marked increase in hemp growing in Oregon we feel that HB 2281 is absolutely necessary to regulate the growth and processing of hemp, including adopting rules to govern quality, packaging and labeling of industrial hemp products.

This bill directs Oregon Department of Agriculture to administer the program for production, processing and sale of hemp. The ODA will be able to charge license and license renewal fees to administer the program and conduct criminal records checks of applicants for licensure related to hemp. The ODA will establish requirements by rule for commercial hemp shipments.

Hemp processing facilities that use flammable solvents for extraction should be located only in areas that have adequate infrastructure and fire suppression resources such as hydrants, close proximity to fire stations, with routinely inspected fire suppression/infrastructure and not located near other combustibles like dense forests, housing or schools. The waste products generated are also of concern; disposing on the ground, in the water, or in the air should be prohibited. Hemp processors should be mandated to take any waste products to Metro's Hazardous Waste Facilities, just as homeowners do when they have old paint, paint thinner, fuel, pesticides, and chemicals.

We realize that this crop uses unusually large amounts of water with the potential to severely and permanently damage the fragile aquifer system in Oregon, particularly the Chehalem Mountain Aquifer which is already stressed. We are currently engaged in a desperate situation where just (1) 22acre hemp/marijuana growing operation at 18505 NE Jaquith Rd, Newberg threatens the future of running water for thousands of residents and businesses according to (2) independent hydrologists/geologist. Strict rules & regulations are needed so that 1 industry doesn't permanently destroy neighborhoods, home values & the environment and cost residents/businesses tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees and expert fees to protect the future of their running water.

More can be read about our desperate plight at: [www.SaveChehalemMountain.com](http://www.SaveChehalemMountain.com)

Respectfully,

Juliette Wait, MD  
President,  
Save Chehalem Mountain Inc

