



## **Suggested Talking Points for Oregon Department of Agriculture on Proposed Hemp Regulations**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has created proposed regulations for industrial hemp farming and is seeking public comment. The regulations are a good start but need some changes to be workable for farmers and handlers of hemp. It is important for stakeholders and interested members of the public to **submit comments by the deadline on Friday January 9, 2015 at 5 pm PST.**

**Comments can be emailed to Ron Pence**, Operations Manager of the Commodity Inspection Division of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, at [rpence@oda.state.or.us](mailto:rpence@oda.state.or.us)

### **Vote Hemp suggests the following points be raised in comments:**

1. The proposed regulations should include hemp grain (non viable hemp seed and processed hemp seed materials) in the definition of “Industrial Hemp” and “Hemp Commodities or Products.” The market for hemp grain is significant with sales of over \$180 million in 2013. The ODA should allow the cultivation of Industrial Hemp for the production of hemp grain and allow handling, marketing and commerce of hemp grain in the regulations.
2. The regulations should specify a testing method for THC similar to the method used in Canada and should allow for testing at private labs in addition to state labs.
3. A Grower license should allow for handling without an additional license or fee and that should be clearly stated in the regulations.
4. License fees are excessive and should be reduced in order to make it cost effective for farmers to grow the crop.
5. The regulations should not require licenses from anyone transporting or selling processed hemp. The regulations should also make it clear that hemp products which are legal under current law (processed hemp fiber, seed and oil) continue to be legal and do not require a license to process or sell.