

From: Ricky Loftin
Sent: 2/24/2015 2:36:42 PM
To: MLK4usc@hotmail.com; Mick Mulvaney; Creighton Coleman; Haley, Nikki; James, Anthony; Terry Walker; Tom Davis; Palmetto Clean Energy
Cc:
Subject: Fw: The Facts on Hemp.....Need grow license to bring Mercedes Benz to Mack Truck in Winnsboro! Will you ever answer????

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Ricky Loftin <hempformotherearth@yahoo.com>
To: "krichardson@sled.sc.gov" <krichardson@sled.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 2:35 PM
Subject: The Facts on Hemp.....Need grow license to bring Mercedes Benz to Mack Truck in Winnsboro! Will you ever answer????

Southern Oregon medical pot growers say related crop, hemp, is a threat, shouldn't grow nearby

- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
- First Posted: February 19, 2015 - 6:07 pm
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PORTLAND, Oregon — Southern Oregon farmers growing marijuana for medicine don't want fields of pot's prosaic cousin, industrial hemp, growing nearby.

They say cross-pollination could turn their high-grade buds into throwback, seedy marijuana, something out of the 1960s that takes forever to get a user high.

Southern Oregon is part of the Emerald Triangle pot-growing region that extends into Northern California.

Pot growers there say they were caught by surprise when a medical marijuana grower from the town of Eagle Point, Edgar Winters, got the first state permit to grow hemp, The Oregonian (<<http://bit.ly/1EtVlcd>>) reported.

Historically, hemp has been used to fashion rope, but now it is a component of clothing, food and cosmetics. Although it's related to marijuana, it has negligible levels of the ingredient known as THC that makes marijuana intoxicating.

The Oregon Legislature legalized hemp farming in 2009, but the state didn't write rules until it was clear the federal government wouldn't interfere. Hemp is still illegal under federal law.

In the meantime, a public vote to legalize recreational marijuana also affirmed the legality of hemp.

Medical marijuana farmers have been raising crops openly and outdoors for years. They are protected by a provision in state law that allows patients to designate growers.

The southern Oregon farmers fear hemp pollen would find its way to their unpollinated female cannabis flowers, slowing their growth and leading to seeds. The result: weak pot.

"No one will buy seeded flowers, period," said grower Cedar Grey of Williams. "The flower market is so competitive these days. You have to have world-class flowers. Anything that is seeded is reminiscent of the 1960s or pot from Mexico. No one is interested in that at all."

Growers have suggested confining industrial hemp to the dry eastern part of