



The Cannabis Alliance is a non-profit, member-ship-based association of individuals, businesses, government officials, and non-profit organizations [dedicated to the advancement of a vital, ethical, and sustainable cannabis industry.](#) We understand that the war on drugs has created misconceptions, mistrust and even fear about the industry and legalization. We want to change those perceptions and improve the business environment for our members through education, advocacy, and helping set the highest possible industry standards.

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Washington State Cannabis Research Commission

"...of all of the crops grown in Washington, there is no crop that is more in need of a commission than cannabis growers. A cannabis commission is the single best mechanism to allow a grower to produce a crop that is safe for Washington consumers, cannabis growers and their employees."

- Alan Schreiber, Executive Director,

Blueberry Commission; Administrator, Asparagus Commission

ISSUE BRIEF

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

The state of Washington produces over 500 different crops worth billions of dollars. [All of these commodities](#) receive extensive production research and support from Washington State University, the United States Department of Agriculture and other state and federal agencies EXCEPT cannabis. Nearly all other forms of industry production benefit from a long list of research, extension, financial, and technical support from a variety of institutions. For example, every Washington grower of any other crop receives USDA funded pesticide applicator training, worker protection, and safety training, but not cannabis growers. It is considered illegal for USDA to fund such work and WSU policy forbids providing such training to cannabis growers. Cannabis growers are left to finance and develop such programs for themselves hence the need for a self funded and directed cannabis commission.



LEGISLATION IS THE RIGHT APPROACH

The needs of the cannabis farmer are immediate and only get more pronounced as time goes on. WSLCB is delayed in their effort to define product testing standards and DOE is still 3 years away from defining lab standards. The Cannabis Research Commission would be a vital partner in ensuring safe production of safe product. The legislative effort will help speed up the process of establishing this important vehicle and indicate clear support from the state for such an effort. The commission bills have been drafted with WSDA guidance and are closely modeled after other state commissions. The language has been vetted by the state Attorney General's Office and has input from the governor's office.

THE "PESTICIDE" ISSUE

As stated, cannabis has few resources, if any, that help farmers address the pest pressures they face. Like any crop, pests need to be controlled safely and effectively. Without proper research and resources farmers are left to their own to determine how to combat those pressures. Commissions are an important resource for farmers. They help dig into the different pressures farmers face, research safe and effective tools that can help with those pressures and then share those tools with every cannabis farmer in the state. Unlike private research, commission research is shared with all farmers in order to help all farmers, not just the few who might be able to afford costly private research. The industry is in immediate need of just this type of research and education in order to help the farmers produce high quality and safe products.



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