



WSIA 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Empower small independent farmers and increase equity within the existing Washington cannabis market by:

1. Creating a craft cannabis production license type, issuing additional craft licenses to equity applicants, and expanding license privileges to include limited farm direct sales and farmer markets.
2. Allowing Washington's cannabis farmers to take advantage of standard agriculture tax deductions and exemptions. The passage of [SB 6505 in 2014](#) prevented Washington's cannabis farmers from being treated like farmers at the state level for tax purposes. (For an overview of tax deductions and exemptions marijuana producers and processors don't qualify for go here: <https://dor.wa.gov/education/industry-guides/agriculture-tax-guide/specific-activities-farmers>) This is an instance where the state's treatment of cannabis farmers is more punitive than federal treatment as cannabis producers are able to file as farmers at the federal level.
3. Establishing a cannabis commission. An agricultural commission would allow farmers to pool resources to engage in meaningful research that is made publicly available to all cannabis farmers.

Assign regulatory authority to the most appropriate agency with expertise by:

1. Shifting most regulatory authority over producers to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and providing funding directly to WSDA. Specifically, shifting pesticide standards, sampling, and enforcement to the WSDA since they have the scientific expertise to understand and effectively regulate farmers and their use of pesticides, and fertilizers, etc. The WSDA also already has equipment which was purchased with funds provided to them under Interagency Agreement #813 with the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB). This change would increase efficiency of appropriations as funds would no longer filter through WSLCB and require interagency agreements between WSDA and WSLCB.

Support and encourage regenerative and organic farming practices to combat climate change by:

1. Implementing WSDA Certified Cannabis Program outlined in [ESSB 5131](#) (Washington organic equivalent certification for cannabis). Both Washington and California passed legislation in 2017 to implement similar programs, California released their proposed regulations in June of 2020 and is on track to establish their program by 2021. Washington has not yet released proposed regulations and cites resource constraints as a hurdle to implementing this program
2. Allowing cannabis farmers to establish isolation districts to ensure prime cultivation areas can be protected from pollen, pests, and plant diseases. (See [RCW 15.15](#) for Seed potatoes and [RCW 15.51.030](#) for Brassica seed production) for guidance.
3. Explicitly exempting cannabis farmers cultivating on agricultural lands from the Clean Air Act through modification of [RCW 70A.15.4530 \(5\)\(a\)](#). Many cannabis farmers have been required to pay registration and annual fees to local clean air authorities even though hemp, hops, and cattle feedlots do not. In some instances, such as Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency cannabis farmers cultivating plants outdoors are assessed higher fees than those producing cannabis indoors.