

Washington Mint Growers Association (Shane Johnson)

From: Washington Mint Growers Association

The Washington Mint Growers Association respectfully submits the following comment in opposition to the proposed 18.5% fee increase to Air Quality Permits.

Mint distillation is a highly seasonal activity, occurring only for a short period of a few weeks each year. Unlike many industries that operate year-round and can spread regulatory costs over continuous production, mint growers and processors must absorb these costs within a very limited window of activity. As a result, the proposed fee increase would place a disproportionately heavy burden on mint producers compared to other industries regulated under the same program.

Mint is a specialty crop that contributes to Washington's agricultural diversity and rural economies, but it also operates within very narrow margins. Additional costs of this scale could discourage production, reduce competitiveness, and threaten the long-term sustainability of this industry in our state.

We urge the Department to consider the unique characteristics of mint distillation and either reconsider or reduce the proposed fee increase so that it does not unfairly impact specialty crop producers whose operations are seasonal in nature.

Respectfully,

Shane Johnson
Executive Director
Washington Mint Growers Association