

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 9:19 AM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: Pot

From: Lalena Johns
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 9:15 AM
To: Jim DeTro; Ray L. Campbell; Sheilah Kennedy; Perry Huston
Subject: FW: Pot

Please see comment below....

Sincerely,

Laleña "Lanie" Johns
Clerk of the Board
Okanogan County
123 5th Ave N., Rm 150
Okanogan, WA 98840
Ph. 509-422-7105
Fx. 509-422-7106

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From: John Denison [<mailto:johnadenison@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 7:03 AM
To: Lalena Johns
Subject: Pot

My name is John Denison and I have been a resident of the Okanogan valley for 45 years. My wife, 3 boys, and their spouses were all born and raised here. All three have built homes here, all nice clean, well kept places that are an asset to the county. If we allow pot growing operations to have free rein to our valley, I'm afraid the quality of life we have enjoyed here for years will be in jeopardy. I realize the pot industry is here to stay, but steps need to be taken to protect those residents who have chosen to live here for that quality.

This county is unique to other counties in that it consists of narrow valleys surrounded by hills and mountains. The problem is, these valley floors are going to be their main focus, especially the Okanogan due to the availability of irrigation water. We all know everyone is not going to be happy no matter the outcome. But if you could zone a half mile setback from the nearest resident and enforce strict building codes to prevent them from becoming a huge eye sore, I'm sure most people could live with it. The pot growers certainly wouldn't be happy with it because it would limit the number of operations allowed, but I believe it's important to protect the future of this valley and the people living in it by doing just that.

Most of the comments you receive are probably mostly against zoning. It's human nature not to get involved until it affects you personally, but I guarantee you the good family people of this valley do not want

this thrust upon them. There's no doubt in my mind if the entire county were to vote on it, they would not be in favor of zoning, but it would only affect the good people of this beautiful valley.

Money can be a powerful incentive to cloud ones judgment. Most of us one time or another have made bad decisions because of this, but we usually recover and learn by our mistakes. I'm afraid we wouldn't be able to recover if the wrong decision is made. I know you have some hard decisions to make here and I don't envy you your job. I hope you look down the road 5 or 10 years and try to imagine what this valley might look like if we make the wrong decision.

Thank you for your time,
John Denison and family