

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:43 AM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: Marijuana grow issues

From: Jack [mailto:jack.denison@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:20 AM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Marijuana grow issues

To whom it may concern

I have a very high concern for the potential for growth of marijuana farms in our county. I live next to multiple operations that are already a burden on my family and neighbors. I bought this property because it was in a good community knowing that I would be raising my family next to orchards, cattle farms, and other farming activities that have been in the Okanogan for more than 100 years. Never in a million years would I have thought that I would have Marijuana growing next to my family, had I know this when I purchased my property and built my house I certainly would not have done so. If the growth of marijuana is still allowed to be grown in residential communities after the new zoning rules are implied, I guarantee I will not live in this county any more as will many other life long residents of this county that have built there lives here. Most of us live in this county because of what it is (its not King County), but it seems like some people want to turn it into an over populated county. The great thing about this county is that when the economy changes elsewhere we basically stay the same, we were doing just fine before marijuana came into this county and I'm certain will continue to do the just fine without it. When a marijuana operation moves into a residential neighborhood I guaranty that property value of those who live near it will decrease. At this point I doubt very seriously that my self or any of my neighbors could sell our homes. One of my neighbors tried to sell their house within the last year do to the marijuana grows in the area, but proved unsuccessful.

Another concern I have is most of the people who own these farms are not from the county and most of the employees are also not from the county as well. Why are these people allowed to have input as to how our county is going to look and operate?

Here is an example of the how some of these people feel about us. This is copied directly from the Empire Experience's (a marijuana grower on North Pine Creek) web site:

By Greg James

Photos by Tom Lynch

Twenty miles south of the Canadian border on Highway 97 in Central Washington lies the small town of Tonasket. As communities go, it's not particularly remarkable. In the summer there are rodeos, barbecues, a big Barter Faire and plenty of Harleys on the highway heading to points north. Supposedly Jack Black's mom lives in town, and once in a while a big shot from Seattle shoots by in a Corvette or Porsche on his way to the wineries and resorts just north of the Canadian border.

The local economy reflects the eclectic mix of the community, which is mostly made up of hippies going back to the land and cowboys who never left. Cattle ranching, fruit and homegrown cannabis dominate the scene.

Tonasket sits in the middle of some of the world's most productive apple and cherry orchards. Those orchards are incredibly productive for a reason ... the climate.

The Okanogan Valley is considered ideal for the most popular varieties of apples and cherries. Braeburns, Red Delicious, Honeycrisps, Rainiers and Bings grow in the Okanogan like nowhere else. The summers are warm and dry, with midday highs in the 90s, and evening lows in the 70s. In the fall, through early October, the region stays dry and sunny, with temperatures dropping to the 70s during the day, and 50s in the evening. The climate that's great for Honeycrisp apples and Bing cherries also turns out to be ideal for marijuana strains like Girl Scout Cookies and Juicy Fruit.

This cowboy is not leaving unless they are allowed to take over our lives! I'm not sure if you all know who Greg James is but I do, He came into our county and changed some of our heritage, he also attempted to apply for marijuana growing permit but was denied because he is a convicted felon. I also don't care for the names that they are giving to to different stains of marijuana such as Girl Scout Cookies and Juicy Fruit, this sounds like a great way to get kids thinking about using drugs. It's a shame to now see Girl Scouts associated with marijuana.

Also while visiting the web site for the Empire Experience I first found that before entering the web site that it asked if I was 21 years old. Then after entering the web site I noticed there was photos of nude women, foul language and people using marijuana as well as other disturbing images. Keep in mind that the images change frequently. <http://www.empireexperience.com/> Is this the type of image we want our county to have?



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One last thing that was brought up in the last hearing was that marijuana is an agriculture crop in Washington state there for it should be treated as a one. As far as I can tell looking at the following RWC it is not recognized as an agricultural crop, there for I feel that it should not be treated as one.

RCW 82.04.213

"Agricultural product," "farmer," "marijuana."

(1) "Agricultural product" means any product of plant cultivation or animal husbandry including, but not limited to: A product of horticulture, grain cultivation, vermiculture, viticulture, or aquaculture as

defined in RCW [15.85.020](#); plantation Christmas trees; short-rotation hardwoods as defined in RCW [84.33.035](#); turf; or any animal including but not limited to an animal that is a private sector cultured aquatic product as defined in RCW [15.85.020](#), or a bird, or insect, or the substances obtained from such an animal including honey bee products. "Agricultural product" does not include marijuana, useable marijuana, or marijuana-infused products, or animals defined as pet animals under RCW [16.70.020](#).

(2)(a) "Farmer" means any person engaged in the business of growing, raising, or producing, upon the person's own lands or upon the lands in which the person has a present right of possession, any agricultural product to be sold, and the growing, raising, or producing honey bee products for sale, or providing bee pollination services, by an eligible apiarist. "Farmer" does not include a person growing, raising, or producing such products for the person's own consumption; a person selling any animal or substance obtained therefrom in connection with the person's business of operating a stockyard or a slaughter or packing house; or a person in respect to the business of taking, cultivating, or raising timber.

(b) "Eligible apiarist" means a person who owns or keeps one or more bee colonies and who grows, raises, or produces honey bee products for sale at wholesale and is registered under RCW [15.60.021](#).

(c) "Honey bee products" means queen honey bees, packaged honey bees, honey, pollen, bees wax, propolis, or other substances obtained from honey bees. "Honey bee products" does not include manufactured substances or articles.

(3) The terms "agriculture," "farming," "horticulture," "horticultural," and "horticultural product" may not be construed to include or relate to marijuana, useable marijuana, or marijuana-infused products unless the applicable term is explicitly defined to include marijuana, useable marijuana, or marijuana-infused products.

(4) "Marijuana," "useable marijuana," and "marijuana-infused products" have the same meaning as in RCW [69.50.101](#).

[2015 3rd sp.s. c 6 § 1102; 2014 c 140 § 2. Prior: 2001 c 118 § 2; 2001 c 97 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 302.]

Please make it tougher for these growers to move into residential neighborhoods, keep this county know for what is know for, not for marijuana. I have lived here my inter life and I love it here as do many others that are not pro marijuana and I would like to stay here without having to live amongst marijuana.

Thank You

Jack Denison

37 Rolling Hills Drive Tonasket WA

I reside in the North Pine Creek area around Aeneas Lake

I am also an Okanogan County Fire District 4 Commissioner

