

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 8:11 AM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: Marijuana grows in our neighborhoods
Attachments: Marijuana Opposition Comments.pdf

From: Angie Bolich [<mailto:bolichbunch99@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 11:27 PM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Marijuana grows in our neighborhoods

Good evening Mr Perry Huston,

I kindly ask that you take a moment to read the attached comments that address grow operations in our neighborhoods. My family and fellow neighbors depend on your time and care in addressing this issue in our community. Please pass this on to our commissioners as your authority enables you to do. I really appreciate your time!

Best Regards,
Angela Bolich

Planning Director, Perry Huston and County Commissioners,

As a resident of Tonasket Washington for 38 years, I can confidently assure you that the quality of life has been depleted due to the arrival of the marijuana farms in our neighborhoods! My family and I live directly in line with a grow operation and another significantly larger one destroys the neighborhood within a mile from our home.

Growing up north of Tonasket, I always thought it would be wonderful to live anywhere on Pine Creek (south west of the city of Tonasket). There are many homesteader's in this area that have worked hard for decades to establish their families, including purchasing land and building their ranches and agricultural farms to support their livelihood! The tradition has carried on to others of us who have followed their steps. I went to college, met my husband, we both worked one (even sometimes two) jobs to earn our way to buying land and building a brand new home to raise our four children on North Pine Creek! It is exhausting to think our commissioners and planning department care so little for the families and future that they would allow everything that we had done and earned the right way to be taken from us by those supporting drug use and destruction of our communities.

I know you have received many letters in response to this issue and you are probably tired of hearing the same thing over and over, but I ask that you listen and support the families that bring promise to the future of this beautiful area and the children that we are raising to continue the traditions defined above.

Below are reasons that will hopefully help you identify exactly why our voices need to be heard!

- **Children-** Apparently many have forgotten that ***marijuana is a DRUG!*** As soon as our kids are cognitively able to understand what drugs are, we are working hard to turn them away from such destruction knowing it depletes their abilities to function at a level to be successful in an ever competitive world. We have a high school age child in our home who is active in sports, achieves excellent grades and looks forward to a bright future...but clearly sees the increase of drug use in the schools! The kids know who's doing it and can recognize the increasing number of users in both the middle and high school level since the legalization! Fortunate for us, our children have been steered away from such activities by those we chose to surround them with, but unfortunately you have allowed it to be pushed upon them daily and available in our neighborhoods! Our county is making the choices to not support the number of us who are trying to save the children! **Drugs and money are NOT more important than our children's future!**
- **Broken Laws and Regulations-**When the allowance of the operations first passed, they were only allotted 1 acre of land to run on and only one owner. I believe the idea behind that was so they would not be allowed to overtake an entire neighborhood with their industrial operations, but unfortunately that is exactly what they have done! They were not monitored and because of this there are multiple grows in one area with several levels of ownership. When our neighbor simply wanted to split his 40 acres of land into 10 acre parcels for building purposes, there was a letter sent out to all the neighbors identifying the short plat request and we had the

opportunity to respond if we didn't want that allowed. ***There were absolutely no form of notification when the grow operations were moving in to our neighborhood!!!*** Definitely there are major adjustment that need made with that system!

- ***Family***-Due to the fact that they have been allowed to overrun our neighborhoods, our daily family living has been greatly affected. First of all, there have been no attempts made to be a part of the neighborhood as they tried to portray at the meeting! ***They are clearly here for business purposes only!*** I use to run both directions in relation to the pot farm several times a week, often accompanied by my children. We were often starved at like animals, the smell was horrible and made it more difficult to breath, the pit bulls that were located outside the building were alarming to encounter and you knew you had no defense against any of it. The kids use to be able to ride their bikes down the straight stretch to the lake where we would enjoy again the physical activities (so valuable to the health of our family) when getting to our destination. Now because of the smell and the uncertainty of the situation I have to take away the physical activity and drive them in the car. We have less gathering at our home in the summer with friends and families due to the inconvenience of the smell as well. To top it off...when the fires from last summer where rapidly moving their way down pine creek, friends were moving their items to our area where we have irrigation and they felt safe, the pot farm personnel sat in their lawn chairs and watched the trailers being brought down and unloaded for safe keeping, clearly identifying they were here for themselves!
- ***Property Assessment***- The first decision we made to try to protect our stake was to buy the property for sale that ran adjacent to ours in order to avoid a pot farm going in there. We really did not want the burden of having the pot farm parallel to our home or our neighbor's homes, but consequently it has been a financial struggle that we have to face daily in order to keep them only across the street. Because initially there weren't any regulations set to stop them from buying next door to a family with four children, we had to do something even if it was a haste decision. From the financial burden, we then made the decision to put our home that we had built with our own hands on the market, knowing that pot farmers did not want the expense of a large home and with high hopes it would go to a nice family and we then move somewhere, uncertain at the time, before the pot farm situation got worse. We love our neighbors but were absolutely overwhelmed with what was happening! Due to the fact that ***the value of our property has significantly decreased*** in the eye of the purchaser, we did not even get anyone to make an offer because of the numerous pot farms that they had to pass before they even got to our property and home! There is also no possible way that the taxed assessed value of our homes in these affected areas are even close to accurate! ***We now choose to stand and fight for what we have worked our lifes for!!!***
- ***Water***- If the pot farms are using private wells to irrigate, I have found that there are only certain amounts of land that can be watered in this manner and I ask that this be addressed. If they are using our irrigation system, then that would explain the increase by \$15.00 per acres in Irrigation Assessment that has been passed on to us thanks to their businesses! I find it interesting how our irrigation has been \$205 an acre for several years and then increased to \$220 to keep up with the additional demands their farms require. With that being said, the increase should be addressed directly to their business.

- **Agriculture-** The pot farms are not agricultural businesses and as pointed out under RCW 82.04.213, it states "Marijuana is not an agricultural product therefore persons who grow, raise, or produce marijuana are not farmers." ***The agriculture that we support and encourage to be grown in our soil is that which benefits the people of the society and that which is nutritional for human consumption or for the animals that we are raising.*** Marijuana may have its benefits for the very few who need it for medical purposes, but the majority of those who carry the medical marijuana card, I would argue use it as an excuse and the rest that purchase the product result in no positive effects to the body or mind in relation to being a success in life!
- **Jobs-** It was pointed out that the Marijuana industry brings jobs to this area and they were quick to point out we were nothing without them. They incorrectly stated also that we could not support ourselves without them. ***I speaking for those us willing to work for our money when I say...We were absolutely able to support our own families before they came along!*** I work in the crop insurance industry and know that my clients are often unable to harvest the fruit from the trees due to lack of people to work. We have the work, just not the people willing to do the work, the society has created monsters that think everything should be handed to them! I know many other small business owners in the area, including my husband, that are constantly looking for good workers, but aren't going to hire someone that feels we owe them the job and doesn't actual want to work hard for their money. The jobs are here, they would rather just sit and take our hard earned money to support them and wait for these "easy" jobs then to actually earn their keep! We don't need these kinds of people in our community! ***Take your pot farms elsewhere and the people that go with them!***

I understand against our will and votes, the pot farms are here and there is nothing we can do about that, but I encourage you to take a long hard look at the way they take away from the dedication to family and the promotion of values and morals! ***I ask that you value our children and their life's that no price can be assigned to! Make a future for them by not make drugs in the neighborhoods acceptable!*** Families have enough challenges to face! It needs to be recognized that money isn't everything and drugs, no matter how you look at it, won't make the situation any better! ***Either keep them completely out of our neighborhoods or enforce strict rules and regulations to operate under as to not take away from everything we have worked so hard for!*** You can look at the Empire Experience website to see the size of the operation by the photos they offer. I encourage you to take a moment to imagine yourself living in this vicinity. The kids shown getting high and the nude woman also give you more of an idea of what is being promoted if you are still questioning what kind of operations we are forced to deal with in our neighborhood!

Thank you for your time and consideration of our families!

Regards,

Angela Bolich

Angela Bolich - Property owner in Okanogan County