

## Lauren Davidson

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**From:** Jim and Katherine Brown <jimnkath@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** Lauren Davidson  
**Subject:** FW: Concerns about Marijuana farm placement

I read in the Chronicle that you are collecting these. Thanks. Jim

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**Subject:** Concerns about Marijuana farm placement  
**Date:** Sun, 10 Apr 2016 16:37:01 +0000

Dear Commissioner DeTro-

We are writing you only as private citizens. You may not know this but we live up Salmon Creek a few miles from town and inside your district. We cannot attend the meeting Monday in the Agri-plex due to this Jim having a work-related meeting in Wenatchee at that time, so we wanted to get this on-record.

We are not opposed to marijuana farming, but expect it to be in a "controlled manner and place." As you know, these are not like apples, pears, cherries, or beef cows. They have an odor, especially around the harvest time, that affects OUR property rights, and ultimately the value of our property. Folks who currently live near these farms have made that abundantly clear. However, that very real impact keeps getting minimized and lost in the storm of controversy being drowned out by the pro-production folks. Other NCW counties are doing the same as you. You are not alone.

It keeps getting compared to dairies or pig farms. Having family I have visited in Illinois, I understand what those smell like. But we don't live there, and those operations will not be coming here. *So it is a hollow comparison.*

Unlike those, this industry was NOT legal when we came here, so we didn't "sign on" for that risk when we bought our place. Therefore, we need to figure out how to protect others' rights (like ours) as this industry spins up, and not after it is already entrenched. The other type of farms were already *possible* industries, however unlikely that they were to arrive *here*. *Pot is entirely different because it was not even legally possible when we bought our home, and we weren't given the option to know what could happen here.*

And this is just another example of the often stated, "**Seattle voted and so we are stuck with it...**" They get the pot to smoke over there, but we get the smells from production and reduced property value over here. The knife "cuts both ways" in these citizen initiatives. This is the latest example.

We are within 7 years of paying off our property and now with a brand new pot grow going in at the old Copple place next door, this is no longer some abstract concept for us. We are worried that this new grow

next door will effectively erode the equity we have built in this place. To have survived the fire by the skin of our teeth, only to now be “skunked out” by a grow below us is a bit distressing.

Here is what we propose: **Along with freedom to grow comes responsibilities.** Setbacks from property boundaries are one start at the problem. We recognize that the entire Pogue Flat was platted for ag, as that was why the irrigation project was built for that area. And as we live near the canal, we are in no different situation...we “get that.” These are tough problems for you to have to figure a way through. We aren’t asking for a miracle. Additionally, and more likely as a solution, just like fruit growers who cannot over-spray chemicals, these growers should have to somehow control the “smell” they put off during at least the critical times. Indoor processing *immediately* upon cutting, with air handled through some air-scrubbing system is *not unreasonable*. This is a multi-million dollar industry, and it has the capacity for innovation to solve such problems as part of their business model.

In closing, we do thank you commissioners for trying to do the right thing for ALL citizens, and not just the growers. This is seemingly a gold rush mentality we need to resist caving-in to.

We want to restate that we are not opposed to these operations. Please notice that we did not advocate for a myriad of options that would really clamp down on this industry. We just want some sanity in it for those who fear impacts to OUR rights. That often gets lost in these discussions. It should not be, “he who shows up with the loudest and biggest group wins!” That is why we have a representative republic and not a pure democracy, for just such issues. I know that you know that, but we want to make our beliefs clear to you. It should not be simply the tyranny of the majority wins out, though we feel that until folks get one of these going right next door, they wont understand the impacts, and by then it will be too late.

Sincerely,

Jim and Katherine Brown  
Salmon Creek Road  
Okanogan, WA

Sent from Windows Mail