

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 12:00 PM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: Marijuana grows in Okanogan county

-----Original Message-----

From: Korie Johansen [mailto:knickle13@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 5:56 PM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Marijuana grows in Okanogan county

To Whom It May Concern,

As I sit here tonight to write this letter of concern, and I look out into the peaceful night, my thoughts are scattered and my eyes are blinded. I have been gone on spring break for a week and returned to a whole new horizon. I live out of town, in a quiet country neighborhood, where there are no street lights, sirens, and/or stop lights. My husband and I CHOSE to raise our family in this setting. We CHOSE to raise our children in a farm neighborhood with likeminded people. But again, as I sit to write this letter and look out into the dark night-or what should have been the dark night- I am shocked by what I see. We have a new bright orange beacon in our neighborhood. Grow lights. I thought for a moment we had a new big street light on the road. It was a shock indeed.

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen of Okanogan County. I am concerned of our industrialized pot grows that have recently sprouted. I live a stone throw away from one of these grows which was erected without any of our neighbors knowing what was happening. It is a small number of feet from our bus stop at the head of our driveway. My concerns start there. There has been much added traffic on our little roads where children are present. Some of this traffic has come with added speeds and danger to people and animals. There has also been an extreme increase in roadside garbage.

Up until recently, marijuana has been an illegal drug. We have taught our children this. We grew up with the D.A.R.E. program. All of a sudden, it is legal in the state of Washington. Talk about sending mixed messages to our children. It is still illegal at the federal level. You can still be fined a felony charge. I know that some of these have smoked and grown marijuana when it was illegal and lied about it. Now it is legal, and we are supposed to trust these same people that lied about doing illegal things and trust them for their word? I have a hard time swallowing this. I also have a hard time with the random, different people that come to these grows for work. Most I've never seen around our area before. They are not from here. Now I worry about who is watching my child at the school bus stop, and who is watching all of our neighborhood houses and our routines.

I keep hearing how this is so good for our local economy. Show me how. Show me where all this 'money' is going back into our local economy. Are our schools getting it? Our local roads being repaired? Our ailing irrigation district getting money for repairs? Are the employees from here? As I stated above, most I've witnessed, I've never seen before. They are paid cash under the table, so no taxes taken out of there paychecks. In turn, nothing back to our local economy. They are not vetted here. Are they renting or buying houses here???-I see many camping out and staying on the property they work. So again, no money back into our community.

I have concerns with these grows and their water consumption. We are on an irrigation district, which has not yet been turned on this year. How are these grows irrigating their crops? Are they doing so on a private use well? From my

understanding, you are not supposed to be able to irrigate a crop from thus said well. By doing so, these grows are affecting our water tables that feed all of our wells. We have an irrigation district for a reason. We all pay for that water usage.

My next concern is with possible ill effects of health. Can it harm myself or my children? How are plants disposed of at end of season? Are there side effects of the smell for months on end?

From my understanding, I thought that some of the original rulings controlled such things as black out fencing, cameras, someone onsite 24 hours a day, etc. The fences are no where near black out. We can see right through them. There are cameras visible. I can't say for sure that there is always someone onsite 24 hours a day. I think that they should have to follow the rules that have been laid out before them. If they are not in compliance, these thing should be dealt with. I think that it is only fair that the community members be involved in zoning and planning of these industrial grows and where they should be aloud to be placed.

I don't think it is right for people that don't live in this county, don't vote in this county, and don't pay taxes in this county to have a say in the dealings with marijuana grows in this county. They have no right to what is going on in our county. We are the ones that live here. We buy our groceries downtown, go to the post office downtown, and send our children to our schools. We live here and CHOSE to do so.

I wonder how this is all going to affect my property value? What happens if I need to sell, and no one wants to move in next to a pot grow to raise their family? I already know of people that have not looked at properties to buy because of this. When my value goes down, but my taxes don't, is the county going to reimburse me?

Sincerely,

Korie Johansen