

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 8:00 AM
To: Lauren Davidson; Angela Hubbard
Subject: FW: Marijuana debate

From: John Denison [<mailto:johnadenison@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 7:09 AM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Marijuana debate

I wrote the County Commissioners before to state my views on the marijuana issue. Since then, I have attended two county planning meetings addressing this issue, causing me to change my views. Before, I was against these operations being close to county residents but felt okay with them in more remote areas. Now, after meeting some of the people involved in the industry, I am totally against any of these operations coming to our county, period. These people show absolutely no respect for the families who are suffering because of the operations that are already here. When people tried to explain how their lives have changed and how they want to sell and move out, but can't, these people just smile and shake their head. Greed is their only motivation. They talk about the jobs it's going to create. Here's what I don't understand; the orchardists are crying for help 4 to 6 months out of the year, but the unemployment rate never seems to drop. Most marijuana related jobs are also seasonal. You wonder how many of the unemployed would be willing to work in a pot processing plant. Has the unemployment rate dropped since the all these have moved in? I would be willing to bet the unemployment rate won't change no matter how many of these have here. Instead, more undesirables will come here from out of town to work and bleed the system while they're laid off.

And of course they kept talking about the horrible orchard sprays and stinking cattle ranches that's just as bad, or even worse to live by. But they know those orchards and cattle were here way before any of us, therefore if you live by one, it's your choice. Besides, there's no comparison. About like comparing the future of this valley to Napa Valley California. I've heard that one about enough too.

Several of these people seem to have lied about where they live. One guy, for example, claimed to be a resident of Okanogan, but his vehicle had a Colorado plate on it. Another, a loud fast talking lawyer from the west side, also claimed to be a local resident. Yet another made false accusations about one of our county commissioners.

They truly want to take over our valley, there's no doubt about it. They have made that very clear. As you see the incoming of these people, you will likely see the outgoing of others. Others, perhaps, like the Mennonite community, many of whom have expressed to me they that should the marijuana industry keep expanding, they won't have any choice but to leave.

I don't know how you can get rid of the ones already here, but you can certainly tell the rest of them to hit the road. I mentioned in an earlier letter my siblings live in Montrose County, Colorado, which has banned all marijuana operations. Now all their marijuana related problems are solved. If we let them here, I'm afraid ours are just beginning.

Thank you,
John Denison; long time Tonasket resident.