

## Lauren Davidson

---

**From:** Clint Wise <info@gpowa.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 7:13 PM  
**To:** Planning  
**Cc:** albert\_roberts@hotmail.com; deeschulz7@gmail.com; mcmlandco@live.com; sigurdoshea@yahoo.com; prdart11@gmail.com; Sheilah Kennedy; Ray L. Campbell; Jim DeTro  
**Subject:** Public Comments on the Okanogan Moratorium for i-502 licensees

Planning Commission,

This email is directed to the Okanogan Planning Commission for the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting on the proposed Moratorium on Marijuana Operations in Okanogan County. I am an owner of a marijuana farm in Okanogan County and your decisions will directly affect me as well as many other farmers who have poured their heart and soul into their marijuana business that was made possible by democratic vote from people in the State of Washington.

After reading through the proposed code, I see that Okanogan County wishes to adopt many of the same resolutions that other counties have adopted. I understand the need for further clarification regarding marijuana operations in Okanogan County because they are largely absent in the current code.

Please keep in mind that this is the very reason why so many people such as myself flocked to Okanogan County to brave the new state order of legalized marijuana. We have poured everything we have into our business, and I ask that the commission be mindful when creating new code. There should be made every effort possible to work with those who have already put their life savings into their farm to help comply with new legislation. Simply making all those licensees stop operations on January of 2017 is simply unjust, as the amount of effort required to get an operating business surely surpasses the effort to write legislation. By this, I mean Okanogan County had every chance to get legislation in place when marijuana was legalized by voters in 2013. Many counties were on top of it, many had moratoriums until legislation could be put in place, and the very reason Okanogan County did not is why it is one of the meccas of marijuana production in the state.

The main challenge in the new legislation is the Conditional Use Permit in all zones and the obvious challenge in successfully obtaining that permit. Marijuana is indeed a crop and is in fact grown on farms. There is very little difference from a moral viewpoint whether a farmer is growing tobacco, coffee beans, hops or marijuana. These are all psychoactive products that adults can choose or choose not to use. I would ask the planning commission to be more realistic with their avant-garde use of the CUP in all zones concerning marijuana operations. The other similar uses are Churches, Event Centers, Schools, Campgrounds and RV Parks. Marijuana Operations have little in common with any of these, and in the case of production and processing, are quite the opposite, as the premises has strict control of who is allowed to enter. Marijuana Operations are certainly not a place for social gatherings which may affect neighboring parcels. Please be mindful of the established businesses and work with the business owners to have a mutually beneficial outcome that also serves the majority public opinion.

My farm takes pride in the fact that we do not use pesticides, fertilizers or any other chemicals in our production. We certainly do not want to contribute to the degradation of our public waterways and aquifers. SEPA and NPDES permits should certainly be administered to the marijuana production and processing community, but no different than any other agricultural practice. This means that the Planning Commission should consider marijuana as agriculture, but perhaps with some special provisions in regards to odor control or any other feature that is unique to marijuana.

In closing, I want to remind the Planning Commission of the good marijuana brings to the community. Jobs, income for local businesses and hope for those who at one time may have had no hope. The State of Washington put forth the

legislation of marijuana legalization with the common person in mind. It was specifically designed to let somebody with little to no savings like myself to jump into a business that was once ruled by cartels and criminals. The State of Washington has constructed the legislation so the moms and pops of the state can legally take over these cartel and criminal enterprises. Please keep the small people in mind and do not cater to big corporate interests. By this I mean creating a Conditional Use Permit process that destroys the livelihoods of people like myself who have put their entire life savings into their business. The main reason people have flocked to Okanogan County was because of the ease and lack of red tape to start such an operation. I do agree that more legislation needs to be in place, but not to the detriment of the already licensed. Please provide a path that is achievable, not a roadblock that stops people dead in their tracks. Please be mindful many of us have little to no money, as we have already built out our facilities and without financial support from the banking system, the vast majority of us are barely scraping by as it is.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and trying to understand my concerns on the proposed legislation. As a background, I am a licensed civil engineer in this State and my farm in Okanogan is something I do in my limited free time. Should any of you have any questions or would like a viewpoint of a particular issue from an established professional, please feel free to contact me any time. Take care.

Respectfully,

Clint Wise  
President, Green Power of Washington LLC  
Phone: (206) 395-9473