

## Angela Hubbard

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**From:** Perry Huston  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 7:50 AM  
**To:** Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson  
**Subject:** FW: WSIA : Comments to Address OCC Title 17a.290 Marijuana Zoning Changes

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**From:** Sheilah Kennedy  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 5:35 PM  
**To:** Perry Huston  
**Cc:** Lanie Johns  
**Subject:** Fwd: WSIA : Comments to Address OCC Title 17a.290 Marijuana Zoning Changes

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Washington Sungrown <[wasungrown@gmail.com](mailto:wasungrown@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** March 17, 2016, 4:54:39 PM PDT  
**To:** <[albert\\_roberts@hotmail.com](mailto:albert_roberts@hotmail.com)>, <[mcmlandco@live.com](mailto:mcmlandco@live.com)>, <[sigurdoshea@yahoo.com](mailto:sigurdoshea@yahoo.com)>, <[prdart11@gmail.com](mailto:prdart11@gmail.com)>, <[planning@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:planning@co.okanogan.wa.us)>, <[deeschulz7@gmail.com](mailto:deeschulz7@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** <[skennedy@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:skennedy@co.okanogan.wa.us)>, <[Rcampbell@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:Rcampbell@co.okanogan.wa.us)>, <[Jdetro@co.okanogan.wa.us](mailto:Jdetro@co.okanogan.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** WSIA : Comments to Address OCC Title 17a.290 Marijuana Zoning Changes

**Dear Planning Commissioners,**

The Washington Sungrowers Industry Association (WSIA) would like take this opportunity to urge you to reconsider the zoning changes currently being drafted in OCC Title 17A.290 that are negatively impacting *Cannabis sp.* Operations. To support this emerging industry, please implement the following:

- Replace references to marijuana with the accepted scientific terminology for the plant, *Cannabis sp.* The word marijuana has a long history of being used to associate *Cannabis sp.* with racial fears and is perceived as a slanderous term against hispanics today.
- Maintain the current definition of *Cannabis sp.* as an agricultural crop (17A.020.060 Agriculture) with the right to farm ordinance (OCC Chapter 5.28) that is also supported by RCW 7.48.300-305 for protecting existing farm activities.
- Do not exclude *Cannabis sp.* cultivation from the definition of farming (17A.020.370 Farm)
- Do not require conditional-use on *Cannabis sp.* operations (17A.290.030)
- Allow *Cannabis sp.* cultivation permitted use across all zones (pg 106 of OCC 17A Zoning)
- Eliminate the Amortization Period to require permitted, unpermitted, or legal pre-existing marijuana operations to cease operations on January 1, 2017.
- Eliminate additional conditions that would increase operational costs or inhibit business development (17A.310.100 Potential Conditions)

Okanogan county is in an unique situation to experience the manifold economic benefits from *Cannabis sp.* cultivation. The planning commission originally considered conditional use for *Cannabis*

*sp.* cultivation back in 2014. The planning commission recognized that growing *Cannabis sp.* is protected by the state and county laws protecting the right to farm and recommended to the County Commissioners in a 5 to 1 vote that ***Cannabis sp. not be treated differently than any other agricultural commodity.*** Testimony was heard that requiring conditional use for *Cannabis sp.* would open the door for addressing the nuisances of farming other crops and might lead to efforts to try and curtail farming that was considered to be a nuisance. We will address the draft Environmental Impact Statement under consideration that addresses agricultural nuisance while simultaneously recognizes the importance of agricultural activity in a separate letter.

The economic impact of *Cannabis sp.* is being felt in the county today. In September 2015, Okanogan reached its lowest unemployment rate since at least 1991 at 4.1 percent, which was during the second *Cannabis sp.* harvest. The potential revenue from the industry is estimated to exceed \$1.3B. Cannabis operations are one of the few agricultural sectors that are capable of bringing in new investment into the Okanogan from other areas of the state. Consider that the 2012 Agriculture Census reported over 1.2 million acres producing market sales of \$287M. The *Cannabis sp.* Industry currently licensed in Okanogan represents less than a 100 total acres and is estimated to generate over \$100M of revenue. Had the county not passed Resolution 17-2016, preventing the siting of new operations, millions more may have been realized.

There are many unfounded concerns that have been expressed by concerned citizens that the WSIA will address in an informational packet being prepared for Planning Commissioners by early next week. This packet seeks to help commissioners better understand the economic impact, address the concerns of citizens, and to help educate the community about the *Cannabis sp.* Industry.

WSIA membership is composed of stakeholders and interested parties who fully appreciate the concerns of the communities within which we work, but also the political process and opportunity for input on these policy decisions that are sure to have a profound impact on our nascent industry. Collectively, we bring a wealth of information and experience to the table and look forward to sharing all of this with you in an effort to inform your decisions regarding this sector of the marketplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate. We look forward to working with you through this process.

David Brown  
WSIA Executive Director