

## Lauren Davidson

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**From:** John Willett <johnwillett@embarqmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2016 1:00 PM  
**To:** Planning; rcampbel@co.okanogan.wa.us; Sheilah Kennedy; Jim DeTro  
**Cc:** 'John Willett'  
**Subject:** LBG.OPC CB Zoning leter 3.16.16  
**Attachments:** LBG.OPC CB Zoning leter 3.16.16.doc

OK Planning Dept, Planning Commissioners and County Commissioners,

Please review my letter that addresses my concerns and covers some suggestions about the current zoning code draft proposal for Cannabis Farming and businesses in the Okanogan.

After the OPC meeting where 350 people came to support the CB industry in Okanogan I believe that we need to address their concerns about the draft zoning code.

My observations and suggestions are in my letter to you all and I am hopeful that we can pull this ordinance out of the new zoning code, per my talks with OP Director, and work on it until it address the citizens and CB farms concerns, and then after working through this, with our businesses and citizens, adopt an amendment to the code that works and respects what the new CB Agricultural business, as the Commissioners thought it was, agriculture, in the beginning, is bring to our county.

Okanogan County is big on property rights and agriculture. Cannabis is legal and it's legalization was well supported in this county when it was voted on.

But, the Planning Dept. needs teeth to do what the State is not doing in making sure these farms are good citizens. Though, let's not let a few; political detractors, know it all's from Olympia and some NIMBY's deter us from our roots or tell us what is farming and what is not.

If it grows from the soil, it grows from the soil and that has been called Agriculture for thousands of years.

My two bits,

Thanks for all your hard work and public service,  
John Willett  
Mazama  
360 535 3330

Okanogan Planning  
123 5th Ave, N Suite 130  
Okanogan, Wa. 98842

March 16, 2016

Ref; OK new Zoning Code. Cannabis Processing and Production

OP, OPC and OBOCC,

I have been approached by a group of legal existing Okanogan Cannabis growers to look at what they see as problems in the new Zoning Code in reference to Cannabis processing and production in Okanogan County. As you may know, I have extensive Planning experience in my 40 year Construction and Non-Profit Career.

I was fortunate to be able to have a conversation at the commissioner's office with my Commissioner from the Methow, Ray Campbell, about the new zoning code and its treatment of growers and processors. I understand that existing growers and processors, from my conversation with Commissioner Campbell, are "grandfathered" in and will not be effected by the new moratorium on establishing new grows in Okanogan County? Meaning that State approved expansions of existing grows will not be held up by the County moratorium?

As to the new Zoning Code; The Commissioners have treated Cannabis growing as Agriculture from the beginning of legal growing in the County. This status should not change, as it is a cash crop and its permitting should not be handled as a Conditional Use Permitted as; Mines, Slaughter Houses, land Fills, Explosives, Sewer Plants, Cement Plants and Drive in Movies are today, but as a permitted use as; all other farms are, Orchards, Flower growing, Compost manufacturing, Airstrips, Helipads, Meat packing, , Sawmills and Governmental Maintenance shops are.

As the Zoning Code is written today; as little as one complaint from a neighbor about the smell from a grow, for the month that the flowers are out before harvesting, could close a operation. We must be very careful here with holding Agriculture to such standards in a Agricultural County as then even a chicken coop will soon be seen as a nescience. What would Orchardist with their smelly sprays do, what would happen to a horse corral or a cattle pen and it's smells, that are more lengthy than grows. This is a slippery slope for agriculture if we start regulating such things as smells. The NIMBY's will raise havoc to our Agriculture economic base if you open this door and set precedence.

The zoning issues and permitting of Cannabis grows and processing is a issue that needs to be well thought out. Those Ideas might be best handled by a subcommittee of the Planning Commission which might include a; grower, processor, retailer, farmer, orchardist, citizen, members of the OPC and a Planning Staffer from Okanogan County. The Cannabis business people and others could then work with the Planning Dept and Planning Commission to come up with well thought out recommendations to the BOCC for the new OC zoning code that protect our citizens and the responsible legal CB farmers that are and try to be good neighbors.

The idea would be to bring the citizens, staff and CB industry people into the planning fold and come up with protections for citizens and legal CB businesses while supporting the new economic generator for the county. A generator that employs around a thousand people in the County. Those employees and business owners spend millions of dollars every year in the County. Like a lot of agriculture, which this County supports and lives off, the money is made elsewhere and brought back here to the Okanogan and spent on Rents, food, school supplies, medical and dental, power, phone, groceries, restaurants, taxes, etc, etc.

Cannabis is a multi-million dollar business in this County and it should be treated with the respect that our other agriculture businesses of its like economic status are.

Respectfully,  
John Willett  
Lazy Bee Gardens  
Investor