

Lauren Davidson

From: rod grimes <grimesllc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 12:15 AM
To: Planning
Cc: Sheilah Kennedy; rcambell@co.okanogan.wa.us; Jim DeTro; albert_@hotmail.com; deesculz7@gmail.com; mcmlandco@live.com; sigurdoshea@yahoo.com; prdart11@gmail.com
Subject: Public Comment

Dear, Commissioners,

I would like to ask for your consideration in helping to save my family farm, my industry and the future well-being of my community in Okanogan county.

I have worked for more than 40 years and am at the end of my career. Like most parents, I would like to see my children and their children do better.

Although it may be difficult for some of us to see given our personal biases of the cannabis industry, our younger generation has a much greater vision. They see it as opportunity to be a part of developing something bigger than themselves. An industry that will benefit the community as a whole and one that has the potential to transform our county.

They see cannabis, as many of us saw the wine industry transform struggling communities in earlier decades. Look at those communities now! Wouldn't it be grand to create the next Napa Valley of Okanogan county!

Their hope is to foster an industry that promotes economic development and lifts the standard of living for many, not just a few. An opportunity to generate significant tax revenues that can be reinvested in infrastructure and support education, youth programs and law enforcement to keep us safe. And some day, as stereotypes fall away, maybe even have a chance to partner with our state's world renowned medical research centers to find unknown treatments for currently incurable diseases.

It's quite a vision, but without your support and visionary leadership, its only be a dream.

A cannabis moratorium is not the answer! It simply stops all progress towards building a viable industry and a stronger community.

To be successful we need your help to grow responsibly.

At a minimum, please protect those of us that have taken the risk to pioneer our vision of a better community by eliminating the amortization proposal, conditional use permit requirements and allow current zoning that meet the LCB guidelines.

Otherwise the consequences could be devastating and turn the industry over to big, out of business who will squelch the independence of locally owned, family operated farms and our community connections.

To be successful long-term, we must maintain our current definition of marijuana as an agricultural crop with the right to farm! Without it we will be forced to commercial zones and growing practices that are not economically or environmentally sustainable. As an industry we need to encourage organic, sun grown sustainably produced cannabis.

Please help support this vision and allow our next generation to FARM!

Respectfully.

The Grimes Family
Crescent Valley Farms
Tonasket, WA

Rod Grimes, 54

Lola Grimes, 55

Stephen Grimes, 26

Katy Grimes,24

Andrew Grimes,23

Jess Kahler-Grimes, 22

Sydney Grimes,28

Sarah Grimes,22