

Steph Mifflin

From: Kay Kenison <kenik@fairpoint.net>
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2014 12:26 PM
To: CDS User; Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: Conditional Use-Marijuana Operation TJ McDonald

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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December 26, 2014

Kittitas County Community Development Services

Please place letter in the official record

RE: Conditional Use Permit TJ McDonald



I am writing to urge you to stop the outdoor marijuana operation. The environmental impact to the neighbors and Kittitas County outweigh the issuing of this conditional use permit. The growing of marijuana provides many environmental concerns and concerns from the neighbors. The operation is not able to use the current irrigation systems because they are federally funded and will need to be issued a well permit or truck water to the site. This will require more use of the roads. The issuing of this permit will impact the neighborhood with their families and children who are nearby. The original WAC specified areas away from day cares and schools, but families are also impacted by these operations and especially outdoor operations. Also outdoor growing were never allowed in the earlier proposals and will provide a security issue-which will impact the neighbors and make Kittitas County less safe for the rest of us.

There is also the issue of waste water and discarded products that could affect the area surrounding this operation and safe disposal of water and waste. This could affect our ground water, the streams and irrigation water with the water runoff from this production. The environmental impact on the farmers of Kittitas County by allowing this permit with the perception that marijuana will somehow make it into our hay crop and the possibility of reducing or eliminating our timothy hay market, just by allowing one marijuana grower. I don't know how the CDS staff determines this operation has a non-significant impact on the area and the neighbors.

Marijuana is not an agricultural product so why place it in our agricultural land. The Commissioners were right to change the zone and even though it finally went into effect in December the changes were proposed well in advance of the application of this conditional use permit. RCW 82.04.213(1) specifically stated "Agricultural product does not include marijuana, useable marijuana or marijuana-infused products" RCW 82.04.213 (3) The terms "agriculture," "farming," "horticultural" and "horticultural product" may not be construed to include or related to marijuana, useable marijuana, or marijuana-infused products" So why allow it in our agricultural areas.

This will impact the safety of families and neighbors of this operation. We do not have enough police protection to help with every day crime. Police will be pulled from their normal duties to marijuana calls and bringing a new element crime to the neighborhood and valley. This has always been a concern that these operations will slide through and not be thoroughly reviewed with the hope that the people will be complacent and they can sneak these operations into our valley. If marijuana production is limited to industrial area, police will be able to concentrate on these areas.

Save our valley! I urge you to deny the conditional use permit for marijuana production on Emerson Road. Marijuana is still a controlled substance and a drug and should only be grown only in enclosed grow operations and not in open outdoor growing operation and not in the farm production areas of Kittitas County. It is a drug and should be classified as such and only produced in an industrial area. The environmental impact on neighbors and all of Kittitas County is huge.

Thank you,

Kay Kenison

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