

Kaycee Hathaway

From: Rollie Bernth <rollie@wardrugh.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 11:01 AM
To: Kaycee Hathaway
Subject: MARIJUANA FARMS IN KITTITAS COUNTY

As I have stated before, I can't believe that we are even discussing this issue in Kittitas County. Why have we, again, let a small minority decide what's best for us.

Last week we had a USDA research scientist visit us on another matter but we got into a discussion on marijuana production in our area. When I told her that a couple of individuals from the Seattle area stated that there is no risk of marijuana plants propagating in other areas from the marijuana farms, she couldn't believe it. She said "marijuana is a weed. It has seeds like most plants. Aside from all of the other negative results of having pot growing in our county, the distinct possibility of the plant spreading into our timothy fields is something we should all be very concerned about. We have seen GMO wheat pop up in areas that aren't even close the GMO wheat fields. We are seeing supposedly non-GMO alfalfa fields testing positive for traces of GMO alfalfa. Again, these fields are not even close to a GMO alfalfa field.

I do know this for certain, if Japan discovers marijuana in our timothy hay, this valley could very easily be out of the timothy growing business!! Timothy hay is the lifeblood of this valley. There is no other crop that even comes close in producing the revenue to farmers, tax revenue to the county, or economic benefits to general population.

If the County Commissioners are worried about being sued, they better worry about the consequences if timothy hay production were curtailed due to their careless decision making.

I am steadfastly opposed to any more growing operations being allowed in the farming areas! Specifically the T. J. McDonald application!

Rollie Bernth
President of Ward Rugh, In.