

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 11:19 AM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: comments re: I-502

Community Development Service and

Kittitas County Commissioners: Gary Berndt, O.B. O'Brien, Paul Jewell

We would like to voice our objection to the request by Bottles of Grapes for a permit to grow Marijuana at their location. This business is at the end of our driveway, Pott Road, intersecting with Dolarway Road. This property is in the city and Pott Road is a city street. It is also where the school bus stops to pick up our grandchildren if they stay at our home. We are located at the end of Pott Road, 1501 N. Pott Road since 1970. We do not want attention drawn to the location and our surrounding property. We wish we could attend the hearing but are out of town.

Thank You . Ron and Robin Anderson

Robin Anderson <Robin.Anderson@anderson-hay.com>

Rose Shriner

Permit Technician

Kittitas County Community Development Services

411 N Ruby St Ste.2

Ellensburg, WA 98926

(p) 509.962.7506

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rose.shriner@co.kittitas.wa.us

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcdbdac24bb8719d004a14

Doc Hansen

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Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 4:54 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: comments- arnold I502

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

2/28/2014

TO: Kittitas County Planning Commission

I am writing in support of our county passing an ordinance to sell marijuana. From a business standpoint this would be a financial advantage for our county and every county needs all the revenue they can collect. I understand the concern of many citizens, but this was passed by the voters of the state of Washington, November, 2012.

I decided to write a response on this issue after viewing the television special on Colorado's marijuana sales. The financial gains for their state are remarkable! We could use their knowledge and experience for guidance. I feel our county should move forward with the current proposal of the Planning Commission.

Gdanko Arnold <gdankoarnold69@gmail.com>

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Gary K. Billingsley
1060 Lambert Road
Cle Elum, WA 98922-9157

December 12, 2013

Kittitas County Commissioners:

I am writing to express my concerns as a resident of this county regarding the Board of County Commissioners' consideration of recent requests to allow the growing of marijuana in Kittitas County.

I moved to Cle Elum in January of 2006 after having observed this area for all the years from 1977 to 2006 wishing and hoping for the opportunity to live here. As soon as all the details preventing this move had been cleared away I immediately moved here from the Seattle area. In order of priority, my reasons for wanting to live here are:

1. The stable, solid, principled people who live here;
2. The high percentage of God fearing Christians living here;
3. The "take care of each other mentality" of the people who live here;
4. The low level of crime with nearly no violent crime in this region;
5. The absence of gangs and their accompanying violence;
6. The pristine beauty of this agrarian environment; and
7. The quiet roads with generally sane and sober drivers.

Now, because the voters in this state voted to allow the growing of marijuana and because certain parties apparently seeking their personal financial fortune have taken the first steps toward starting such growing operations here, the Board of County Commissioners finds itself faced with the need to make decisions regarding this distasteful activity and the ramifications it will hold for our quiet and pristine region.

The adverse ramifications of allowing such marijuana growing and possible retail activities (to list a few) include the impact these activities would have on:

1. The Social Environment: With the presence of an element of society, heretofore generally foreign to this region, bringing with it crime that hasn't required the attention, to any great degree, of our local law enforcement agencies until now;
2. The Security of Our Children and Adolescents: With parents unable to allow their children to use the streets and roadways of our county without fear for their security;
3. The Impact on the Quality of Education and the Production of Excellence at Central Washington University: With ready availability will come increased use, and with increased use will come decreased effectiveness of our local University to produce excellence;
4. The Aesthetics of this Region: Including the appearance of the security systems that would be required (i.e. Security Fencing, Surveillance Systems, Lighting Systems, Security Guards, etc.), and the traffic generated on our presently quiet rural roads;
5. Property Values: With the value of lands and homes near these growing operations deteriorating dramatically; and
6. The Added Cost of Law Enforcement: This cost has apparently not yet been calculated, but it is likely to outstrip any tax benefits that might inure to the County.

The Benefits:

It is hard to imagine any benefits that could be associated with allowing such marijuana growing and possibly retail activities in our county, at least none that would outstrip the added costs. However, if there are some who argue that there would be benefits to our county by allowing these activities, I would encourage the Commissioners to consider the famous words of a dear friend of mine,

**"For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)**

I would encourage the County Commissioners to seek every legal avenue to block marijuana growing and retail operations from entering Kittitas County now or at anytime in the future.

Please don't sell our soul for any perceived gain that this activity might offer to this county. The costs are far too high.

Sincerely,



Gary K. Billingsley

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:39 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: comments-billingsley I502
Attachments: CountyCommission MarijuanaGrowing L01.pdf

Marijuana Growing & Retail Permit Applications

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Please accept this statement of concern regarding the Kittitas County's current consideration of applications for marijuana growing, production, and retailing permits. I am very concerned that if such permits are granted we will see very adverse consequences in our county, including:

1. The increased crime that has been reported in other regions of the country where marijuana has been legally grown;
2. The invitation for added crime that will be created by the presence of large quantities of the processed and ready to use marijuana that will be warehoused here, as growers will be allowed to keep up to 50% of their production on site;
3. Many of the sites on which applications for marijuana growing and/or retailing permits have been filed are in areas of residential housing with young families and children adding a grave concern for the safety of these residents with the influx of a marijuana seeking element of people to our, here-to-for, quiet relatively crime-free community;
4. Water pollution in both local and regional streams and rivers including the Yakima River and the resultant loss to fisheries and wildlife to say nothing of the livestock that drink from these waters;
5. Soil pollution by way of herbicides and pesticides draining in significant quantities into the ground both through septic systems and directly onto the ground surface;
6. The adverse impact on neighboring farmers growing crops traditional to our valley, including pesticides and herbicides impacting organic farmers on lands adjacent to marijuana growing operations;
7. The need for large quantities of water for year-round growing operations that will result in lowered water tables during the winter months when irrigation water is not flowing, and thus the adverse impact this will have on the wells of existing properties in the region of the growing operations;
8. A heavy price in loss of wildlife including coyote, bob cat, cougar, and others due to the heavy use of warfarin which is known to be entering the food chain through the poisoned rats that feed on the foliage of the cannabis plant.

These are only a few of the adverse impacts that should be studied thoroughly before any serious thought is given to approving these grower and retailer applications. Please see the attached letter I wrote to the Kittitas County Commissioners on December 12, 2013. Thanks for your consideration.

Gary K. Billingsley

1060 Lambert Road
Cle Elum, WA 98922
Cell 425-785-6237
Fax 425-427-0989
garyb@migllc.net

Rose Shriner
Permit Technician

Kittitas County Community Development Services
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Kittitas County Planning Commission

Subject: Marijuana issue in Kittitas County, February 25, 2014 meeting call for further written comments

William P. Bobovski
408 Linda Lane (PO Box 1564)
Ellensburg, Wa 98926



Writing on my own behalf

I am a grandparent concerned with the widespread availability of a potentially debilitating drug in an already youthful drug and alcohol seeking society. Marijuana is potentially debilitating for reasons cited by Mr. William Holmes and others who spoke at the planning commission meeting of Tuesday, February 25. Mr. Holmes presented and left with the commission statistics from Colorado citing significant problems already being experienced with marijuana usage.

Based on the public input presented at the February 25 meeting, I would hope and suggest that the planning commission would recommend a one year moratorium on the growing, processing and retail selling of marijuana in Kittitas County. This moratorium would be in line with the Washington State attorney general's statement regarding the State's cities and counties actions in regard to this issue. The moratorium interval can be taken to assess the validity of claims made, both pro and con, and to learn more of Colorado's actual experience one more year down the marijuana road.

I have the following further observations:

0 each individual on the planning commission should provide a written yea or nay statement such that we the people know where you stand on this issue and why you made your recommendation to the county commissioners. The vote and the discussion proceedings are undoubtedly in the public record but is the reason each member expressed in the record?

0 there was or still is an issue with a proposed bio waste site in Kittitas County. Much furor was raised to either postpone or toss out that project. That issue was perceived yuckiness in our back yard. The marijuana issue is not a perceived problem but a real problem involving our children and grandchildren

0 The bio waste issue emanated from the Westside. The marijuana vote emanated from the Westside. Let them grow, process and sell the product if they want it so bad. Let them reap the rewards and of course with absolutely no problems.

0 The Federal law regarding pot is a confusing issue for most folks. Be bold. Say no. Demand the Washington State follow the law.



Kittitas County Planning Commission

Subject: Marijuana issue in Kittitas County, February 25, 2014 meeting call for further written comments

0 Money. The fellow running the powerpoint presentation responded to a question regarding how the revenue money would be spent by mentioning some areas including money for drug abuse programs (I believe I heard correctly). Great. Lets also burn down a few houses a week and hire more firefighters.

0 Kittitas County is a prime area for the marijuana operation because it is a straight short shot to the Seattle area, the prime local market. Where does the Mexican drug cartel unload their goodies? Mexico? Or maybe, just maybe, the good ol U.S. where the money is. Same holds for Kittitas County, the Westside and marijuana.

0 Money. Where will the money be distributed? To Kittitas County in proportion to the acreage, processing and sale? Remember the Manweller proposal to limit waste or bio waste to 30% export from the originating area. No go on that one. Also a highly probable no go on our county getting a fair share of the marijuana revenue. King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap legislative votes vs. us????

0 At the February 25 meeting I believe I heard a proponent mention 400 million in marijuana revenue. If true, WOW. I can imagine state legislatures salivating at how much more money they will have to waste, er spend. To heck with the consequences, to heck with the kids, they can fend for themselves.

0 75% tax on the overall marijuana process. 25% tax on growing, 25% on processing and 25% on retail sales. Again WOW. Is that legal? Just a suggestion. Make the County tax 125%. We will be rolling in dough. A facetious statement? Hardly. I believe the county commissioners can propose a tax for something like drug abuse or more officers for the sheriff's office.

0 Review the comments made by the Quincy hospital regarding the Gorge at George and the problems caused by the crowds that attend the concerts there. Who pays for those problems? The Gorge amphitheater? Hardly. Same goes for the problems that will be caused by the marijuana issue.

0 Was it at the February planning commission meeting or at the water mitigation meeting the next day that I heard an individual comment that we fought the good fight regarding wind farms and lost so might as well get on board with this issue and reap the financial windfall. Hmmmm. Money, kids, money, kids??? Suggestion. Lets toss a virgin down Mt. Adams and reap years of no problems ever again. It was done in the past.

Thank you, William P. Bobovski

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Cc: Steph Mifflin
Subject: comment letter- brattin I502

Dear members of the board,

My name is Joel Brattin. I am writing to discuss a concern I have with the proposed guidelines for I502 properties in the Commercial Agriculture zone.

After months of searching, I entered a contract for the Denmark schoolhouse property, at 4500 Badger Pocket Road. The school house will work very well for indoor, discreet, I502 production however, the right side of the building is only 25 feet from the adjoining hay field. The closest neighbor building is over a half a mile away.

If the new guidelines are enacted, we would be forced to either end the contract to purchase or locate an outdoor grow much larger in the middle of the 4 acres.

If the goal of the guidelines are to be as unobtrusive to the neighbors, they would have the opposite effect in my case.

I understand the removal of the 100 foot setback was removed for the Front because of a concerned indoor grower, which is understandable because indoor cannot be seen from outside the building.

In your recommendations, please consider, either:

- Removing the 100 foot set back requirement for indoor cultivation (not greenhouse), or
- Changing the 100 foot set back from side and back property lines to 100 feet from any neighbor's building.



Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

With sincere regards,

Joel Brattin

206.769.7373

Joel Brattin <joelbrattin@gmail.com>

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February 27 , 2014

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FEB 27 2014

Dear Kittitas County Commissioners ,

We feel that there will be many problems by allowing unlimited use of marijuana in Kittitas County .

Have you been paying attention to all the robberys and new crimes taking place in Colorado recently because of the legalization for pot use there ? One problem is that Colorado banks are not willing to handle the large amounts of cash transactions going on there from these legal? Businesses . Kittitas County Law enforcement is expecting big increases in DUI violations as well as the robberys and other crimes . Can our County afford to pay for the coming large increases in crime costs ? We will be surprised if enough new taxes are actually collected to pay for all of these extra costs ! Sincerely ,
Howard & Joanne Briggs

1st X 2nd X 3rd X
KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CWS
SO
PA

Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 7:53 AM
To: Gary Berndt; Obie OBrien; Paul Jewell
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Darren Higashiyama; Clayton Myers; Gene Dana; Jeff Watson; Lindsey Ozbolt; Doc Hansen
Subject: FW: marijuana zoning

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

From: Marly [mailto:marlysc@fairpoint.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 8:29 PM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: marijuana zoning

Dear Commissioners,

After attending this last meeting I cannot urge you strongly enough; PLEASE place a moratorium on this zoning at least until you can establish how we will pay for the additional services we will be providing.

I am employed at KVH as an operating room nurse. After having worked in urban areas (such as Los Angeles) with drug business activity I have some idea of what patient care services we will be asked to provide. Our hospital here has evolved to meet the needs of our existing population. I will be sad to see our resources gobbled up by the results of violent behavior and then not be available for our own Kittitas residents. For example; do you know how many units of blood may be needed to treat stabbing victims and inquired as to what is kept on hand at the hospital at any given time?

I see that the Yakama Nation has taken a stand against this zoning. Will they sue us? Being on their ceded land makes that seem likely.

What sort of water wars can we expect in low irrigation years? Who gets priority? Hay farmers or friends of the liquor control board?

What tools do our local Law Enforcement Officers have to keep us safe in our travels? What objective measurements will we use to determine legal limits of influence? Will our court be able to support their efforts?

Has our college assessed how parents feelings may change about sending their students to school here? What sort of relations can we expect from the organized drug cartel in places like Mattawa and Yakima to name a couple?

You can be certain that you will see arsons, stabbings, shootings, traffic fatalities, domestic / child abuse. Expect that far more people will be armed in their day to day travels.

I won't even get into property or tax valuations except to say that my husband and I are regretting having invested our life earnings into this county. This is such a gorgeous, wonderful place - don't waste it like this!

Respectfully,
Marlys & Robert Chambers

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Marlys & Robert Chambers

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FEB 20 2015

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Comment file

Buzz Chevara

USO Sponsoring Member Since 2005

Attn. county planning commission
Be sure that all portions
of any pot business has a
current and active bank acct.
in order to accurately trace
and tax the business activity,
otherwise there is no paper
trail.

There is also a chance this
business will be run by
professionals within a few years
unless actively monitored.

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2014

Planning
Commission

1st ☒ 2nd ☒ 3rd ☒
KITITAS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Support Our Troops

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 10:38 AM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Cc: Steph Mifflin
Subject: grave concerns

2/26/14, 4:00 pm

To whom it may concern:

I attended the planning commission meeting last night and was given the opportunity to speak regarding some of my concerns. My concern does not just extend to the property adjacent to ours, that has applied for a growing license and a processing center. I understand, that since it is under 20 acres, that it would be a provisional license. That property address is:

270 Mission Road
Thorp, WA 98946
TAX PARCEL - 239133

Two growing licenses were applied for, at this same property address. The property, also includes the physical address of a modular home at:

80 Mission Road
Thorp, WA 98946
TAX PARCEL - 239133

which also parallels Watt Canyon Road and the irrigating ditch running north.

The applications were under the name of Jam Box and Pacific Botanical. Pacific Botanical also applied for a processing center license. It is my understanding, that there is a consortium of investors, from the Seattle area, who have worked very hard to obscure their identity, even to the seller of this property. The seller of this property would not have sold to anyone, if they had known their intent of growing marijuana. This property has been a Christian elementary school for over 30 years.

Our objection (my husband and I), to these applications are multi fold.

1. We built a home at 280 Mission Road in 1979, which is adjacent to the 270 Mission Road property, referred to above.
2. At that time, we also applied for a license to start a business, a dental lab, within our home. This request was reviewed by our neighbors and there was no objection. We have operated that business and lived in this home, since 1979, which is 35 years. Occasionally, dentists and patients come to our dental lab. My husband and I are in our mid 60's.
3. My deceased parents, Pastor and Mrs. Dick Rentfro, also built their home, at 260 Mission Road, in 1979. My father died, 2 years ago, and his home is still in probate. We have concern about how a marijuana growing operation would effect our property values, the inevitable environmental impact and our personal safety.
4. We have a concern regarding the resultant increased traffic on our road, Mission Road, which is a county road, obviously maintained by the county. The road has had some damage due to an occasional semi. The road was not made for heavy traffic. It is a dead end road. A road cannot be punched into Thorp Cemetery Rd with-out our express permission. We will never allow that to happen, especially for commercial reasons, as long as we are living here.

5. We are very concerned about potential crime, which has been reported in other growing areas. I spoke to a local attorney regarding this matter. The attorney's FIRST STATED CONCERN was the increased crime, historically present in other growing sites. It is a fact that cannot be denied.

I learned last night, that the grower is entitled to keep 50% of their production on site. That is also a concern.

6. The 80 Mission Road and 270 Mission Road properties are also adjacent to the property to the north of them and I-90. The Howe's, owning that acreage are ORGANIC FARMERS. It was my impression, from the meeting last night, that marijuana growers would not be allowed licenses to grow, if they are up against other agricultural endeavors, particularly organic.

7. We have a serious concern because the drain fields from the 270 and 80 Mission Road properties are below the buildings, running north toward the fence, that divides them from the 23 acre Howe property. If there are poisons and fertilizers in the septic tank or elsewhere, the run off would naturally drain into the neighbor's property/organic farming, and areas where their horses and cattle have grazed.

8. The other issue is the creek that runs parallel to I-90, that comes from Taneum. That creek is adjacent to the 270 Mission property and that creek runs through the Howe's property north of them. Any pollutants, that make it that far, would contaminate or poison, farmers' water to the east and eventually, contamination into the Yakima River ecosystem itself.

9. The well on the 270 Mission Rd property is approximately 167 feet deep. The well serves both the large building and the modular home. There is not enough water to even run multiple hoses, without draining the well. The water has also tested positive for E-Col, for several years. The previous owner had to install a UV sterilizing filter.

10. The 270 property also has a large holding tank, just as you enter the property, to the left, that holds 1000 gallons of run off water, which would otherwise run into the Taneum Creek watershed. I don't the KRD would approve.

11. The 270 Mission Road property has had Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) water rites for 9 acre feet. I don't know if they still have water rights, because irrigation water has rarely been ordered, since that property was occupied in 1978. I believe that the water was paid yearly.

12. There is radiant heat and propane for heating. The electrical drain for running that large building has been significant and with a marijuana operation, it would sharply increase.

13. I am also concerned, that the electrical wiring, in the gym's south end construction area, was red tagged at one point. I don't know if that has been lifted. I have heard that the two lights, in the parking lot, were not properly installed by an electrician. A building inspector needs to check these issues out. The new owner did a feasibility study which should have covered these concerns.

14. Children live on Mission Road and are picked up by the Thorp school bus system. Children are suppose to walk to and from the intersection of Watt Canyon Road and Mission Road to their homes. There are three homes adjacent to the 270 property, sharing the .2 mile, dead end, Mission Road. Each home has a child or children living in them, ages 4-12. I take care of 2 grandchildren in our home and occasionally a niece and nephew as well. Through the years, this whole Watt Canyon Road area, has been primarily developed by new, home owners, families, instead of agricultural developments.

15. For a marijuana grower to have sufficient water, they would have to put in a new well or wells on 270 and 80 Mission Road. Their excessive use of water could drain our water table. I doubt, that most growers would go to the expense of hydroponic growing, as Doc Hansen talked about last night. I doubt the growers' biggest concern is the environmental impact of their operation. They are interested in profit and likely whatever they can get away with.

One thing that startled me last night, was the fact that the state has no intention of distributing tax revenue to Kittitas County, based on tax generated by this county in marijuana grows. Any yet, this county will bare the cost and the headache. Inherently, our county will have a substantial increase in crime, related to burglaries at growing sites or dispensaries; increase in ambulance and fire fighting staff and equipment, increase in prison population, increase in ER and hospitalizations, serious infractions dealing with water rights, pollution by contaminants of multiple varieties, including a heavy, increased usage of water, that can be very precious to local businesses, farmers, exporters, etc. How is the county going to cover those expenses? I am not a pessimist but I see red flags all over the place. It's seems like the perverbial can of worms, NO ONE knows what's it going to look it.

Counties across Washington State have received over close to 2400 applications to grow marijuana. Who provides the manpower to prudently inspect hundreds of grow sights, on a continuum?

Heidi Hemmat posted the following: As one example, burglaries at medical marijuana dispensaries are increasing in Denver, according Heidi Hemmat (<http://kdvr.com/author/kdvrheidihemmat>) posted/updated May 6,7, 2013. "Denver has a growing crime issue related to marijuana according to Denver crime statistics. When Colorado's medical marijuana law took effect in 2009, there were 10 marijuana related burglaries. In 2012, the number jumped to 102 (over a thousand % increase) marijuana related crimes. Sergeant Andrew Howard with the Denver Police Department's marijuana task force said, "There has been a spike in burglaries and robberies related to commercial marijuana facilities. Police think the amount of marijuana grown in the state is much higher than the amount consumed, creating a national issue too."

Washington Post published an article, Sat, 30 Nov 2002, entitled Medical Marijuana's Effect on Crime Discounted. "In some cases, law enforcement officials said, the marijuana laws have resulted in a "GENERAL SOFTENING" in attitudes among the public toward marijuana, the report said. Some were concerned about CONFLICTS THAT ARISE WITH FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, WHICH STILL BANS THE DRUG. The laws creates legal loopholes for drug dealers and (medical) marijuana cultivators to avoid arrest and prosecution," acting Attorney General Robert F. Diegelman wrote in a review of the report."

"To combat crime, dispensary and warehouse owner Norton Arbelaez, and his partner, have spent \$45,000 to install dozens of cameras, shock sensors, motion detectors and panic alarms to protect his marijuana grow. The 84 cameras watch every plant. They state, "Over the long term if the regulations are properly executed, it people install cameras, install the security, we will be one of the most heavily regulated businesses in the State of Colorado."

One Denver mother said, "It makes me think twice for sure. It doesn't bother me what people do in their own homes but IF IT BRINGS CRIME TO MY NEIGHBORHOOD THAT DOES BOTHER ME!"

(IRRIGATION) "A hefty cannabis plant needs several gallons of water per day in the rainless summer growing season, which doesn't sound like much until you multiply it by thousands of plants and consider that the streams in the area naturally dwindle each August and September. In the summer of 2012, two creeks, that Scott Baur's (of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife) team mapped, got so low, that they turned into a series of disconnected pools with no water flowing between, trapping young fish in shrinking ponds. This is a serious issue for coho salmon." Seth Auckerman, whose writings have appeared in Orion, Sierra and High Country News among other publications.

"The ecological impact of an ounce of pot varies tremendously, depending on how it is produced. The problem with the weed industry is that ITS IMPACTS ARE SEVERE, IT IS NOT EFFECTIVELY REGULATED, AND IT'S GROWING SO RAPIDLY!" Scott Greacen, River advocate

In an article, written by Seth Zuckerman, October 31, 2013, "the illegal cannabis production has ramped up in California. The ecological impacts of its reckless cultivation have ballooned. From shrunken, muddy streams to rivers choked with algae and wild lands tainted with chemical poisons, large-scale cannabis agriculture is emerging as a significant threat to the victories that have been won in the region to protect the wilderness and to keep toxic chemicals out of the environment and rebuild salmon runs that had once provided the backbone of a coast-wide fishing industry."

"Some growers grow their marijuana organically, many do not. Once you get to a certain scale, it's really hard to operate in a sustainable way." Scott Greacen says, "Among other things, you've got a monoculture, and monocultures invite pests. Spider mites turn out to be a particular challenge for green house growers."

Tony Silvaggio, a lecturer at Humboldt State University, CA and a scholar at the campus's two year old Humboldt Institute of Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research, found that "POTENT POISONS such as Avid and Floramite are sold in small vials UNDER THE TABLE at grower supply stores, in defiance of state law that requires they be sold only to holders of a pesticide applicator's license. Silvaggio has found in his research "After you've worked for months, if you have an outbreak of mites in your last few weeks, when the buds are going, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING-OTHERWISE YOU LOSE EVERYTHING," he says.

"Outdoor growers face another threat: rats, which are drawn to the aromatic, sticky foliage of the cannabis plant. Raids of growing sites typically find packages of the long-acting rodent poison warfarin (coumadin), which has begun making its way up the food chain to predators such as the rare, weasel-like fisher. A study in 2012 in the online scientific journal PLOS found that more than 70% of the fishers have rat poison in their bloodstream. Deaths were attributed to internal bleeding triggered by the poison they absorbed through their prey." Scott Greacen

"The final blow to the environmental health from outdoor growing comes from fertilizers. Growers dump their used potting soil, enriched with unabsorbed fertilizers, in places where it washes into nearly streams and is suspected of triggering blooms of toxic algae. There were some deaths of dogs on Eel River tributaries having been linked to the algae, which the dogs ingested after swimming in the river and then licking their fur." Tony Silvaggio, Humboldt State University

With 16 applications for retail and nearly 84 apps for growing, how is our county going to control/regulate the growth/compliance of these new businesses? It seems, that it would make sense, to severely limit the number of growers and wait for data from the rest of the counties. There's nothing wrong with putting one foot in the water. Far better than the alternative.

It is my understanding that if our county does not cooperate with the state, we would be subject to a law suit. Does the state have the power to tell us how many operations we have to have? Do they care about the future of this valley and the businesses that have caused it to grow and flourish, for so many years? Can we grow hay, other crops and MARIJUANA without protective perimeters, without endangering our livelihoods/economy, our freedoms and safety?

I was sitting next to an elderly couple last night. They have a farm, that is adjacent to a property, whose new owner wants to grow marijuana. I think they are scared. I am. There are unanswered questions all over the place, speculative assertions, that seem to serve the state more than the rural population.

Why was there such a cloak and dagger acquisition of Kittitas County properties and owners still hiding behind unidentifiable applications? Why isn't there full disclosure to the rural citizens in proposed grow areas? They certainly have voices that need to be heard.

The state lost huge revenue with the privatization of liquor sales. Now, to cover that deficit, the state is shifting the burden to rural areas. What do we gain?

So what's the payoff? Much more money for the state, but, AT WHAT COST to the citizens of Kittitas County? It doesn't look like a win win situation to me! God help all of us as these important decisions are made, decisions that everyone will likely regret for the rest of our lives.

Respectfully,

Connie Coleman

Connie Coleman <weareblessed@hotmail.com>

Rose Shriner
Permit Technician
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St Ste.2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(p) 509.962.7506
(f) 509.962.7682

rose.shriner@co.kittitas.wa.us

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:48 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: comments-coppock i502

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I attended the planning commission meeting on Tuesday of this week and feel that kittitas county should not create zoning rules based on the properties currently owned by applicants to ensure they can use the land for growing and processing. Instead, I think a conforming ag-20 lot should be the minimum allowed with at least 100 foot setbacks on all sides. The current proposal to not have a front setback on nonconforming lots creates more of an eyesore to all who live near or drive by the property.

Additionally, I do not feel that any variances should be allowed to reduce any of the setbacks. Comments regarding property being surrounded by hay fields and thus making a case to reduce side or rear setbacks lack any future-thinking in how this inhibits future development of those current hay fields. A hay field today could be someone's future home site.

I encourage the county to create stricter zoning rules and not allow growing or processing activities requiring security to be in anything less than ag-20 and require that it be a conforming lot size.

Regards,
Julie Coppock
Kittitas county resident

Sent from my iPhone
Julie Coppock <gocougs9798@yahoo.com>

Rose Shriner
Permit Technician
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St Ste.2
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(p) 509.962.7506
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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:43 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: comments- Croddy I502

Proposed Changes to Title 17

To Kittitas County Planning Commission

Regarding proposed changes of zoning for marijuana grow operations in Kittitas County

I live and work on a long time family run timothy hay and cattle ranch in the Fairview area. One of these marijuana growers allegedly has bought property that borders our farm and plans to build a large marijuana facility there. I find this unacceptable. I do not wish to live and work next to something that is federally illegal. This repulsive idea brings so many negative impacts to mind that it is astounding to me that commercially growing a federally illegal drug is even being considered in this county, let alone the state as a whole.

Besides the fact that the possession or growing of marijuana is federally illegal, what's to prevent a rise in crime in Kittitas County due to the increased number of people under the influence of marijuana, or those who are desperate to be under its influence? How will farmers be able to prevent people from cutting fences, ruining crops, stealing or damaging expensive farm equipment, and harassing livestock in order to gain access to these facilities? And who will be responsible for correcting these damages?

Farmers will end up having to pay more to maintain their fields. If marijuana is grown outside, what is to stop it from becoming invasive? It is called "weed" for a reason. It is hard to get rid of and will grow anywhere, crowding out crops such as timothy that the farmers are making a living from. Or farmers will have to pay a lot more to spray their fields with chemical herbicides that are damaging to the environment just to keep their timothy stands from being overtaken by marijuana.

Also on the topic of farming, is the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) required to provide water to marijuana growers, although this could criminalize them federally? And how will having to share water with multiple marijuana growing facilities affect the water supply of timothy growers, especially extending into Badger Pocket and during low water years?

All of these negative impacts will, in turn, have a negative impact on the county as a whole as crime rates go up, taxes go up to pay for more police and hospital care, and land values plummet. People from the coast will no longer want to buy vacation homes in Kittitas County, or come to the Ellensburg Rodeo and other popular events. It will begin to look and feel more like King County: dingy, dirty, and crime-ridden. Long-time Kittitas County residents will pack up and leave to get away from this. How are our law enforcement officers going to be able to handle the increase in crime? What about the hospitals? What will happen to property values? How much easier will it be for younger and younger children to gain access to marijuana, the gateway drug?

The amount of car accidents will increase due to people of all ages driving under the influence of marijuana. Burglary rates will increase, homicide rates will increase, domestic abuse, you name it, crime rates will go up. General societal morals will decrease.

Kittitas County will see little profit from this, as all we would get is city retail sales tax. This sales tax would probably end up going to law enforcement and emergency response units due to the rise in crime, so residents would see little of the revenue. Taxes will go up to pay to keep the results of these grow operations in check, and property values will go down due to the contemptible nature of the proposed "businesses."

Marijuana may have some medicinal qualities, but like any other prescription drug should be prescribed by a medical professional for the treatment of disease, not sold and grown as a recreational drug. Smoking marijuana would cause all the same cancers and diseases that smoking cigarettes would, and some studies show that smoking marijuana can lead to heart disease and a deterioration of brain function. If smoking marijuana is now okay, perhaps the campaign to vilify cigarettes should be ended, because there is really no difference between smoking tobacco and smoking marijuana, aside from the mind-altering qualities of marijuana.

Yakima County will be glad that they have the Sundown M Rehab facility to treat all of the new addicts this proposal would create, as would the Parke Creek Juvenile Facility. And what happened to marijuana being a gateway drug? If marijuana is allowed, does that mean that soon we will see meth labs and cocaine facilities popping up, as long as they make sure they build their facilities to fit in with the "rural" nature of this valley? This valley was built on farming and ranching, but marijuana is not an agricultural crop, no matter how its proponents try to spin it. It is a federally illegal, mind-altering drug whose negatives far outweigh its positives.

I plan on staying in this valley to continue farming and to raise a family, unless this kind of riff-raff is allowed.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Croddy
4001 Lyons Road
Ellensburg, Wa 98926

Croddy, Stephanie Joann <stephanie.croddy@email.wsu.edu>
Rose Shriner
Permit Technician
Kittitas County Community Development Services
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Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 11:49 AM
To: Paul Jewell; Gary Berndt; Obie OBrien
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson; Gene Dana; Clayton Myers; Darren Higashiyama
Subject: FW: Comment regarding commercial growing of Marijuana

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Diefenbach [mailto:flyfishing4ever@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 11:28 AM
To: CDS User
Cc: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: Comment regarding commercial growing of Marijuana

Greetings,

In addition to our public comment during the last planning commission meeting on 2/25/2014 we would like to submit this information in order to clarify our comment and concern.

We are writing in regards to the proposed open grow permit of marijuana in agricultural lands.

Our concern is for the potential debris contamination into Timothy hay fields.

Our concern is with the potential for wind blown, pollen, dry leaves, and plant matter carried onto adjacent Timothy hay fields.

This valley is known for its strong gusty winds.

Anyone who has lived in this valley for any length of time, has observed "dust devils" crossing a piece of land, collecting debris and then depositing it several hundred yards away.

The debris is not limited to the winds in the valley but also via bees, birds and rodents that would have access to open air growing areas.

Currently Japan randomly tests for over 20 chemical substances, if detected the entire shipment is subject to rejection. The concern is that once Japan becomes aware of the open growing of Marijuana in the same areas that Timothy hay is grown, THC could be added to the list of randomly tested chemical substances.

Although the chances of contamination may be minimal, it is our belief that it would only require one event to call into question the purity of all the hay in the valley.

We believe that an open growing operation causing debris contamination would not be able to be classified as a random occurrence at that point.

We urge the commissioners to seek further comments on this issue from the local exporters and hay growers in the valley.

Sincerely

Gary and Barbara Diefenbach

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Jeff Watson

From: William Holmes
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:29 AM
To: Doc Hansen
Subject: FW: Drug Free Action Alliance Follow-up
Attachments: Marijuana Messaging & The Rocky Mountain HIDTA Report - Webinar - 2-11-14.pdf

Dear Planning Commission Members:

Please find linked below, at the third bullet, the report from which I drew my remarks at your 2/25/2014 meeting. Attached is a PowerPoint presentation which presented the report at a recent webinar.

William D. Holmes, Director
Kittitas County Probation Services
(509) 962.7516

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From: Derek Longmeier [mailto:dlongmeier@drugfreeactionalliance.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 9:00 AM
To: Derek Longmeier
Cc: Tony Coder; Allison Sharer
Subject: Drug Free Action Alliance Follow-up

Dear Prevention Partner:

Thank you for registering for the Drug Free Action Alliance program webinar, *Marijuana Messaging and the Rocky Mountain HIDTA Report*.

Here are the resources, as promised.

- The recorded session is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piSj9Xdy30Q>
- Webinar PowerPoint (Attached)
- Link to 2013 HIDTA Report: <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/files/occe-hidta-mj-rpt-co-13.pdf>
- Marijuana Resources, including the Marijuana Quiz and sources from Tony's presentation, are available at <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/marijuana>.
- Drug Free Action Alliance Position Paper on Marijuana as Medicine: <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/drug-free-advocacy/position-papers>

To register for the Blunt Truth newsletter, a twice-monthly publication showcasing stories related to marijuana, contact our Program Assistant, Karen Downing at Contact@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

To contract with Drug Free Action Alliance to bring Tony to your community, contact the Drug Free Action Alliance Director of Programs, Allison Sharer, at 614.540.9985 ext. 19 or ASharer@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

Sincerely,
Derek Longmeier, MBA, OCPS II



Drug Free Action Alliance

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Coordinator
Problem Gambling Prevention Program Manager
Drug Free Action Alliance
6155 Huntley Road, Suite H
Columbus, Ohio 43229
PH: (614) 540-9985 ext. 16
FX: (614) 540-9990
www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org

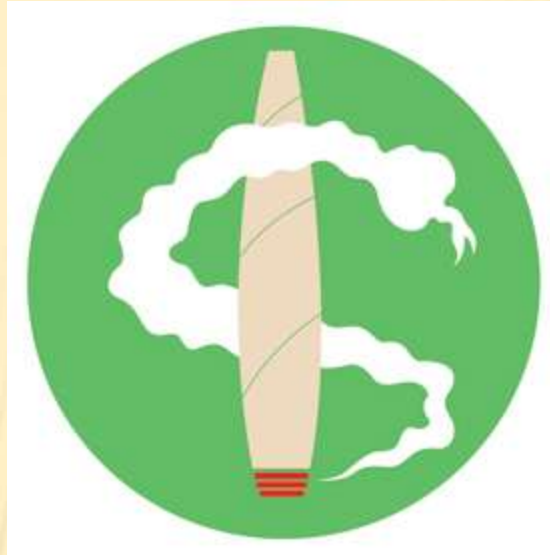
Lifetime Prevention
Lifetime Wellness

Join us on [**Facebook**](#)

Have you seen the new Drug Free Action Alliance publication? "Why Scare Tactics in Drug Prevention Messaging Don't Work" is a simple, research based booklet and can be ordered [here](#) today!

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Rocky Mountain High

IMPACT OF MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION ON THE STATE OF COLORADO

MARIJUANA MESSAGES – 1930'S



MARIJUANA MESSAGES - 2014

ANNUAL DEATHS

(UPTOKES FOR NEW ENGLAND ENTS)

Tobacco	435,000
Poor Diet/Exercise	365,000
Alcohol	85,000
Prescription Drugs	32,000
Motor Vehicle Crashes	26,347
Homicide	20,308
Aspirin	7,600
Peanuts	100
Water Intoxication	6-8
Marijuana	0



MARIJUANA: Safer Than Peanuts AND WATER!



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Legal At Last

Amendment 64

FREEDOM!
 Marijuana Now
 Legal For Adults
 In Colorado

Washington Bar
 Welcomes Pot
 Smokers

Humboldt
 Stories: Santa's
 Sativa-Powered
 Sled

Study: Marijuana Doesn't Affect Driving Performance
 By Steve Elliott ~alapot~ in News
 Friday, May 28, 2010 at 8:44 am

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It's something most seasoned pot smokers already know, but still it's nice to get more scientific confirmation: Marijuana doesn't make you wreck your car.

Subjects show almost identical driving skills just before and just after smoking marijuana, according to a study published in the March issue of the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.

Investigators from Hartford Hospital in Connecticut and the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine measured the simulated driving performance of 85 people in a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

Volunteers responded to various simulated events associated with auto crash risk, such as avoiding a driver who was entering an intersection illegally, deciding to stop or go through a changing traffic light, responding to the presence of emergency vehicles, avoiding colliding with a dog who entered into traffic, and maintaining safe driving during a secondary (in-the-car) sound distraction.

(Photo: The Inspiration Room)

(Photo: West Coast Leaf)

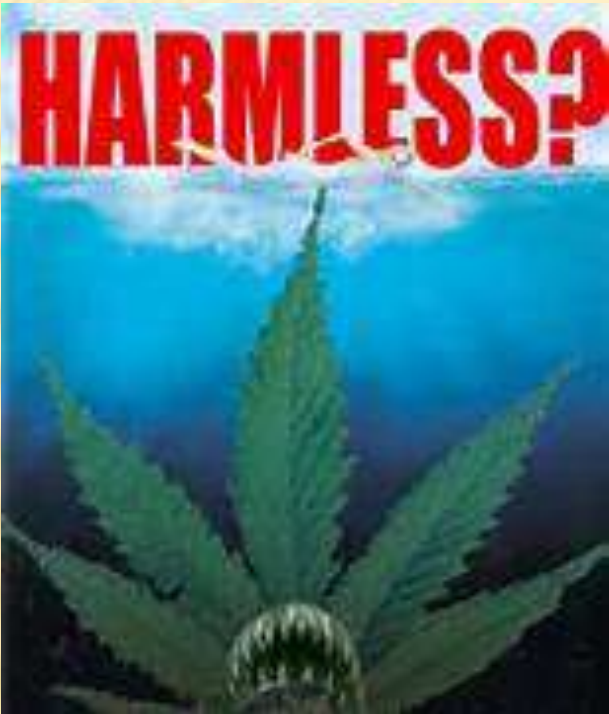
Now Trending

First New Jersey Medical Marijuana Center Opens

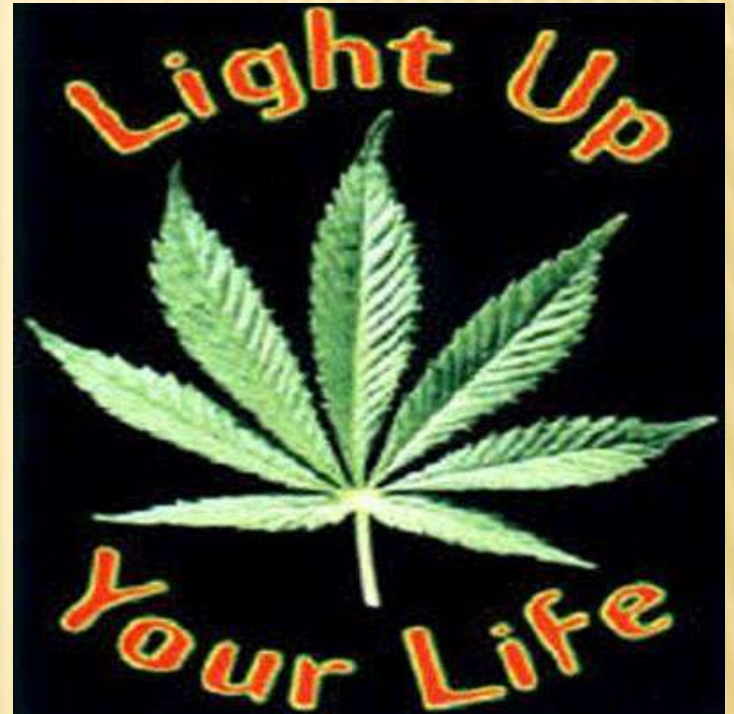
British MPs After Year-Long Study: Legalize Cannabis

Marijuana Legalization in Ohio: Just A Matter Of Time?

WHICH MESSAGE IS REAL?



VS



HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA)

✖ What is HIDTA?

- + ONDCP – Reduce drug trafficking/production in US
- + 28 HIDTAs – 681 initiatives funded
- + 16% of all counties in the US are HIDTA counties
- + 60% of US Population



COLORADO HIDTA REPORT

- ✗ Colorado serves as experimental lab
- ✗ Wanted to look at validity of pro-pot claims:
 - + Eliminate arrests
 - + Free up law enforcement resources
 - + Reduce traffic fatalities – alcohol to marijuana
 - + No increase in use – tightly regulated
 - + Added revenue
 - + Reduce profits for the cartels

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) REPORT

Created to:

- ✖ Utilize a comparison of 3 different eras in Colorado's legalization history
 - 2006-2008: Early medical marijuana era
 - 2009-2012: Medical marijuana expansion era
 - 2012 – present: MM expansion and recreational use era

2000-2008

- ✗ 5,993 patient applications
- ✗ 4,800 cardholders
- ✗ No retail stores
- ✗ Regulations of five “patients” per caregiver
- ✗ Only 55% designated a caregiver

2009-PRESENT

- ✗ End of 2009, 38,000 additional applications.
- ✗ 41,000 cardholders
- ✗ 2012 – 532 licensed dispensaries
- ✗ 2012 – 108,000 “patients”
- ✗ 94% of cardholders for severe pain
- ✗ Denver - More dispensaries than pharmacies or liquor stores

GREEN RUSH?

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA REPORT

Subjects covered:

- ✖ Driving Fatalities
- ✖ Colorado Youth Marijuana Use
- ✖ Colorado Adult Marijuana Use
- ✖ Colorado Emergency Room – Marijuana Admissions
- ✖ Diversion of Colorado Marijuana (General)
- ✖ Diversion of Colorado Marijuana (In the mail)

SECTION 1: CAR CRASHES AND FATALITIES

Federal Highway Administration estimates:

- ✖ Crash costs (medical and lost productivity):
 - + \$99 billion (2010) - CDC
 - + \$500 for every licensed driver

WHAT OTHERS SAY

- ✗ NIDA - After alcohol, THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the active ingredient in marijuana, is the substance most commonly found in the blood of impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims.
- ✗ British Medical Journal - Drivers who smoke marijuana within a few hours of driving are almost twice as likely to get into an accident as sober drivers.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

- ✘ A widely cited article in the British Medical Journal from 2012 concluded that marijuana use doubles the risk of car crashes.
- ✘ “Drivers who test positive for marijuana or self-report using marijuana are more than twice as likely as other drivers to be involved in motor vehicle crashes.” – Epidemiological Reviews (2012) of nine studies

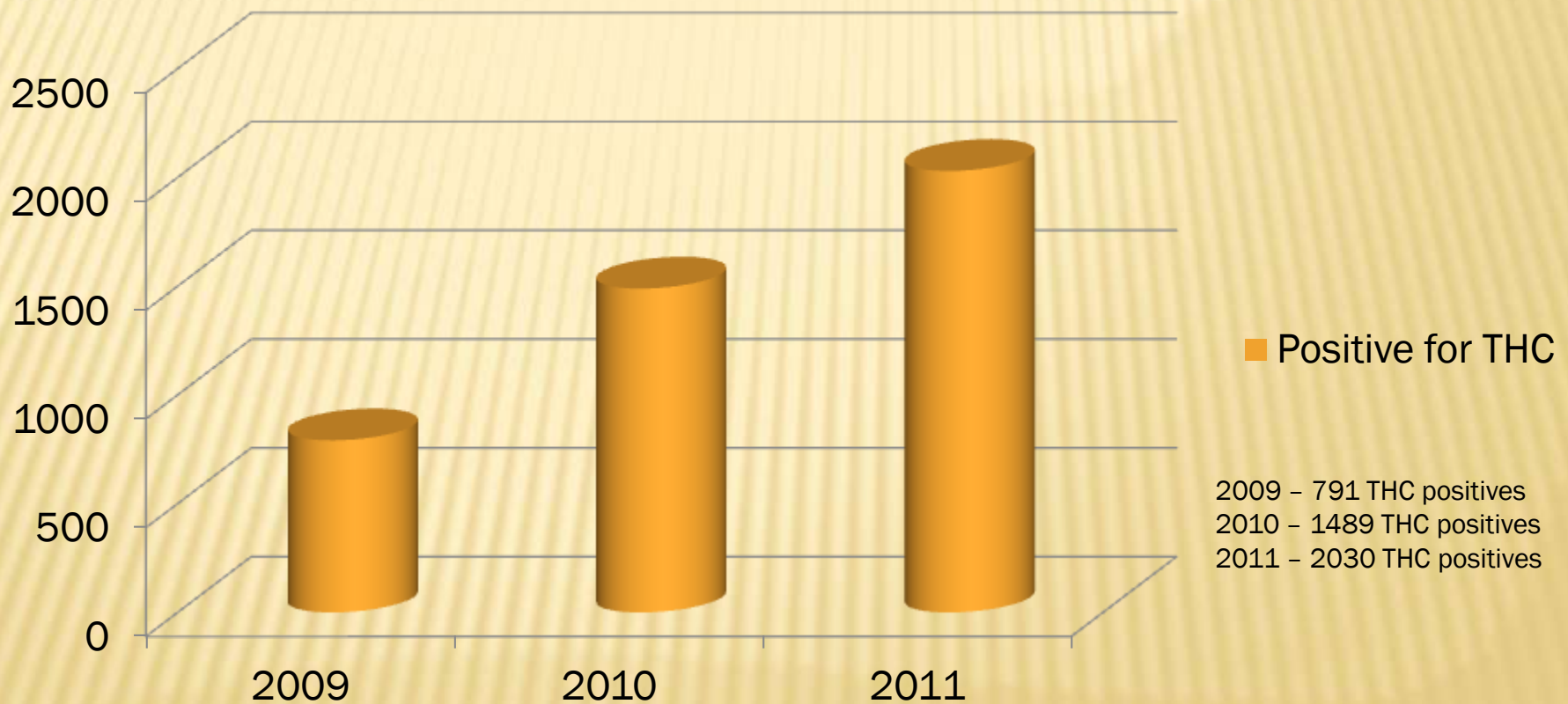
TEEN DRIVERS

Liberty Mutual/SADD survey

- ✖ 19% admitted to driving after smoking marijuana
- ✖ 36% - marijuana smoking no distraction while driving
- ✖ 34% who admitted to smoking while high said it made them a better driver

DUID – MARIJUANA DETECTED

Positive for THC



Source – Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment

COLORADO HIDTA REPORT – FATALITIES

- ✖ 2006-2011 – Traffic fatalities decreased 16%
- ✖ 2006-2011 – Traffic fatalities involving drivers testing positive for marijuana increased 114%

Fatalities Involving Driver with Positive Drug Test 2006-2011					
Crash Year	Fatalities by Driver with Positive Drugs (Includes Cannabis)	Fatalities by Driver with Positive Cannabis	Total Statewide Fatalities	Percentage of Total Fatalities (All Drugs)	Percentage Total Fatalities (Cannabis)
2006	85	27	535	15.9%	5%
2007	92	29	555	16.6%	5.2%
2008	84	39	548	15.3%	7.1%
2009	88	41	465	18.9%	8.8%
2010	88	46	449	19.6%	10.2%
2011	106	58	447	23.7%	13%

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Transportation Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2006 - 2011

COLORADO HIDTA REPORT - FATALITIES

- ✖ 2006 – positive for pot -28% of fatal vehicle crashes involving drugs
- ✖ 2011 – positive for pot – 56% of fatal vehicle crashes involving drugs



SECTION 2 – MARIJUANA AND YOUTH

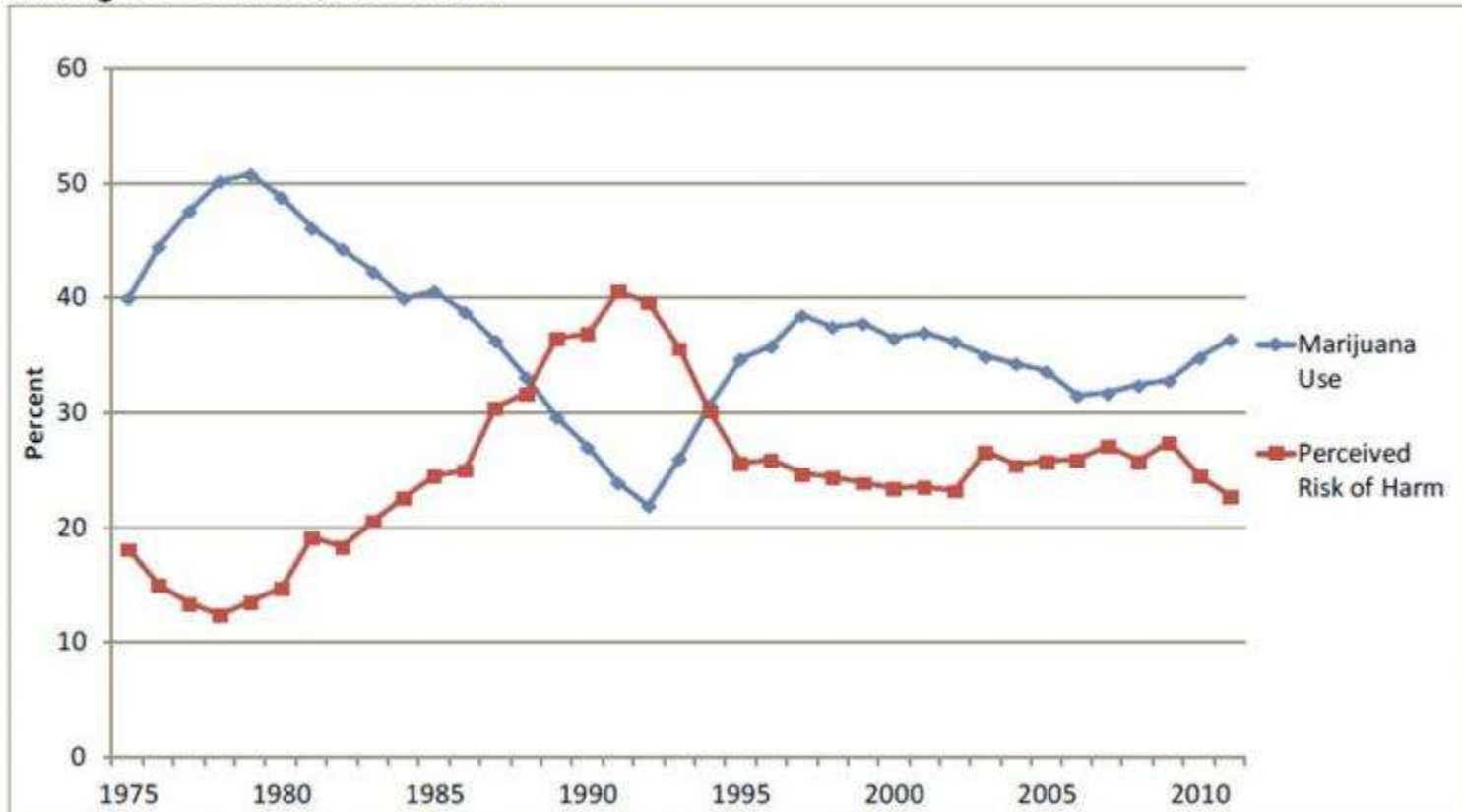
FOR THE FIRST TIME:



Youth Risk Behavior Study (CDC - 2011) – More kids said they have smoked marijuana (23%) than cigarettes (18%)

PERCEPTION OF HARM

Figure 1. Past Year Marijuana Use and Perceived Risk of Harm of Occasional Marijuana Use Among 12th Graders, 1975-2011

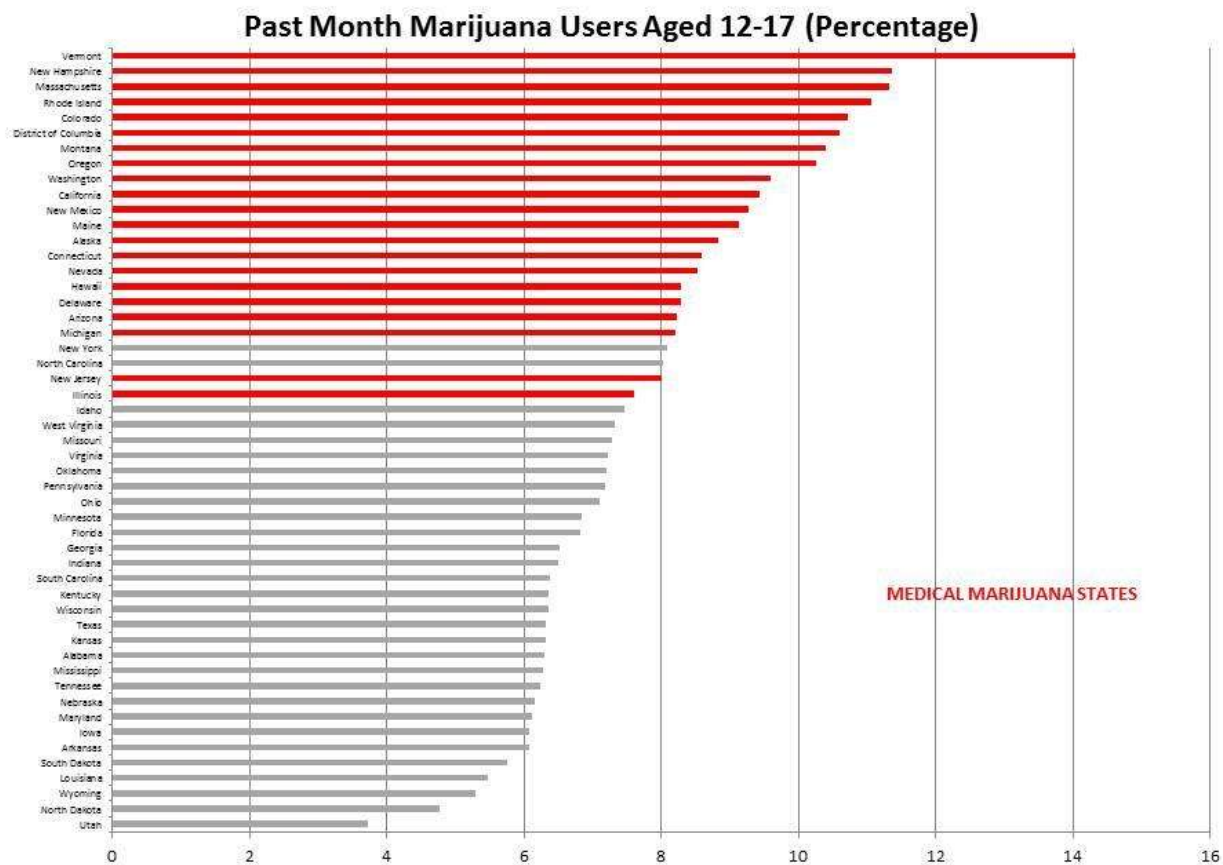


^a Source: Monitoring the Future Study, www.monitoringthefuture.org.

YOUTH PERCEPTION OF MARIJUANA

- ✗ *"It is harmless and natural, it is only an herb, and it won't affect me long-term"*
- ✗ *"It is not addictive"*
- ✗ *"It doesn't hurt me as much as smoking tobacco"*
- ✗ *"It makes me feel calm"*
- ✗ *"It doesn't affect my thinking or my grades"*
- ✗ *"It's safe because it is used as medicine for cancer and other diseases"*

TEEN MARIJUANA USE



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), HHS/SAMHSA (2010-11) and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

HARMFUL TO YOUTH? – RECENT STUDIES

- ✗ Marijuana is addictive
- ✗ New Zealand study – 8 point IQ loss
- ✗ Schizophrenia and psychosis - Marijuana use during adolescence and young adulthood increases the risk of psychotic symptoms, while continued cannabis use may increase the risk for psychotic disorder in later life - Maastricht University Medical Center in the Netherlands

MOUNT SINAI STUDY

- ✗ Review of 120 studies of youth marijuana use
- ✗ Findings include:
 - + Marijuana as a “safe drug” is scientifically inaccurate
 - + More studies needed to accurately understand adolescent cannabis use on brain development
 - + Association between cannabis use and subsequent addiction to heavy drugs
 - + Association between cannabis use and psychosis
 - + Other genetic behaviors factor into later drug use

SECTION 2 – COLORADO YOUTH MARIJUANA USE

- ✖ Used 30-day data and is classified as current use
- ✖ Grades 9-12 – primary source of information for data
- ✖ Most data was from 2006-2011

COLORADO YOUTH MARIJUANA USE

✗ Youth ages 12-17

- + National average of current use – 7.64%
- + Colorado average of current use – 10.72%

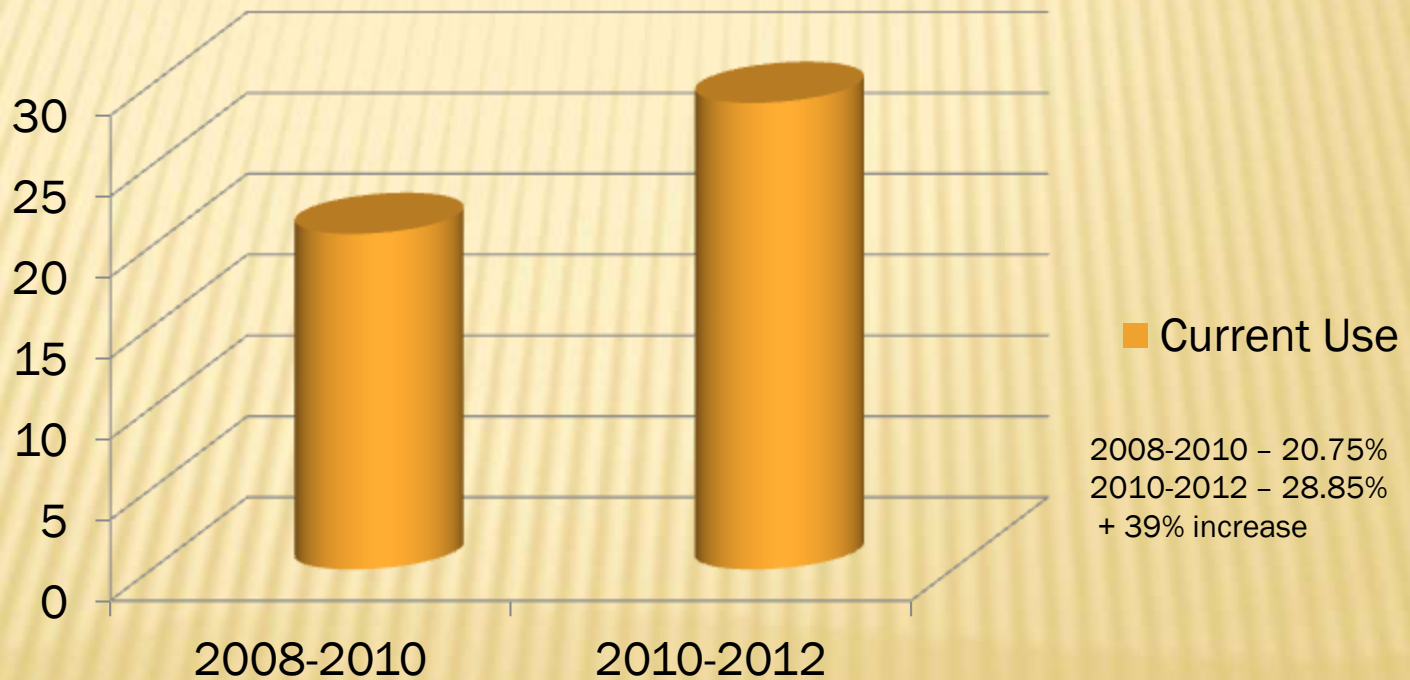
“If Denver Public High Schools were considered a state, that state would have the highest past month marijuana use rate in the US, behind New Hampshire.”

- Dr. Christian Thurstone, Denver Health Medical Center

ADAMS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

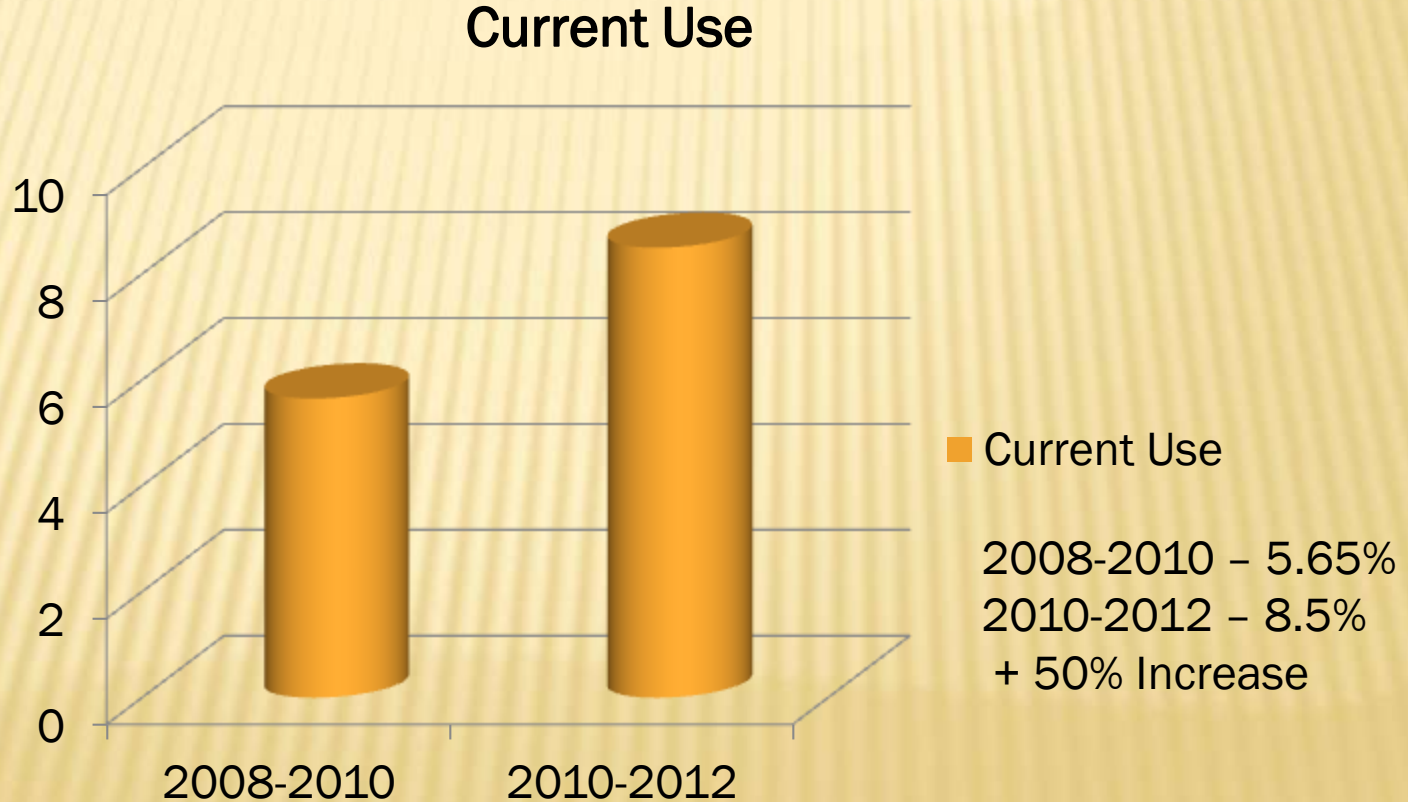
Adams County High School

Current Use



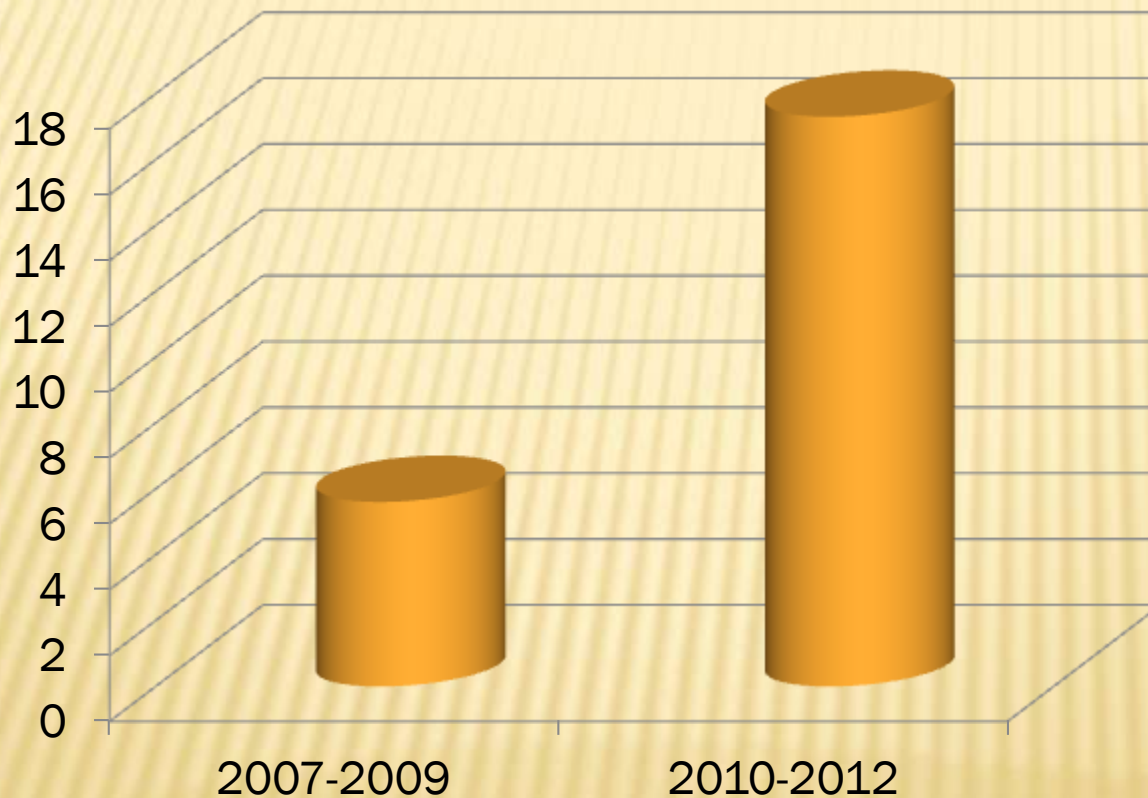
ADAMS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adams County Middle School



COLORADO SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Students Testing Positive for Marijuana



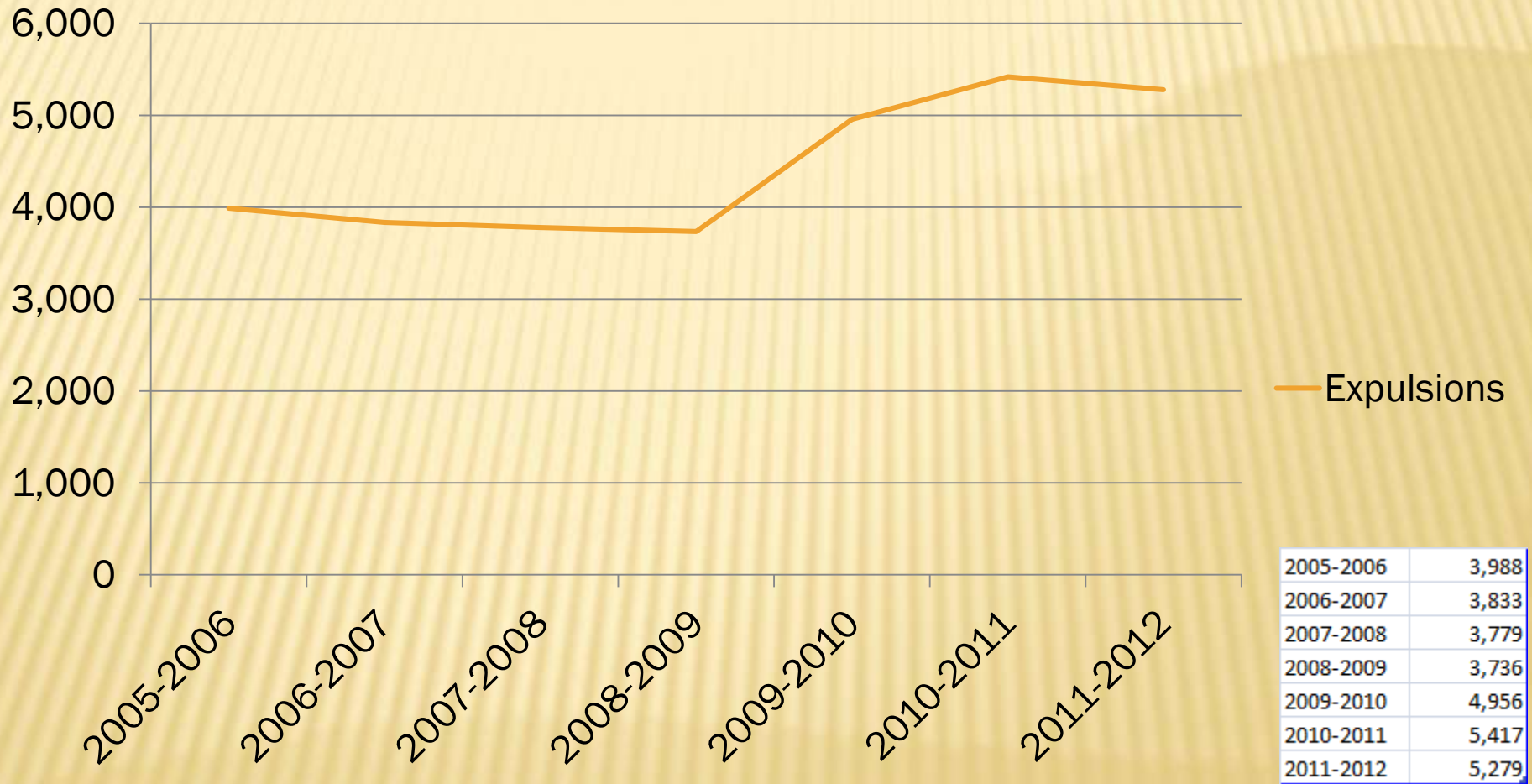
■ Students Testing Positive for Marijuana

2007-2009 – 5.6
students on average
2010-2012 – 17.3
students on average

Average THC Level

2007-2009 – 225 ng
2010-2012 – 396 ng

DRUG RELATED EXPULSIONS - COLORADO



SECTION 3 – COLORADO ADULT MARIJUANA USE



Who Cares?

COLORADO ADULT USE

Reasons that people say, “Who Cares?”

- ✗ Marijuana will stop senseless arrests
- ✗ Why do I care if someone smokes a little pot?
- ✗ Regulate it and tax it – money for the state

PERCEPTION

- ✗ People are arrested for having a joint in their pocket



REALITY

- ✗ 0.7% of all state inmates were behind bars for marijuana possession only (with many of them pleading down from more serious crimes).
- ✗ In total, one tenth of one percent (0.1 percent) of all state prisoners were marijuana-possession offenders with no prior sentences.
- ✗ The vast majority (99.8%) of federal prisoners sentenced for drug offenses were incarcerated for drug trafficking.
- ✗ Alcohol is responsible for 2.6 million arrests, a million more than for all illicit drugs combined.

STOP ARRESTING PEOPLE FOR POT

WHY DO I CARE IF SOMEONE SMOKES A LITTLE POT?

- ✗ Addiction Services – Maintain Healthy Lifestyle (Prevention, Treatment and Recovery)
- ✗ Business – Bottom line and workforce safety issues
- ✗ Children's Services agencies – Parent readiness and safety of child
- ✗ Colleges – Financial aid and retention
- ✗ Education – Testing requirements
- ✗ Law Enforcement – Public safety and officer/employee issues
- ✗ Legislators – Budget/jobs and then “election-time” issues

WHAT POT MEANS FOR BUSINESS

✗ Drug Use Impacts:

- increased absences, tardiness, accidents, workers' compensation claims, productivity and job turnover
- 3.6 times the accidents on the job
- 5 times the accidents off the job

✗ Which then effects:

- BWC rates
- Insurance coverage
- HR responsibilities
- #1 reason for failed drug tests

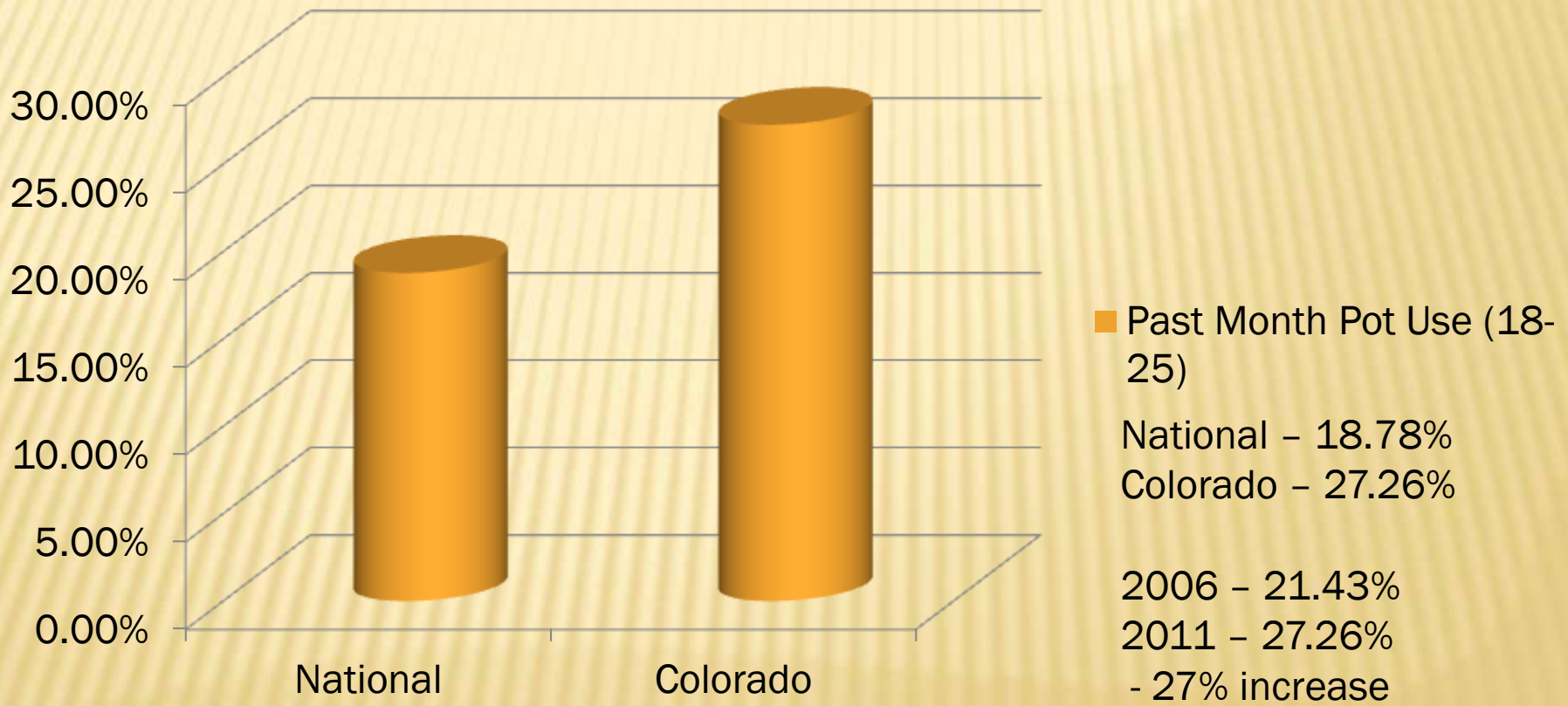
REGULATE IT AND TAX IT

The total overall costs of substance abuse in the U.S., including productivity, health and crime-related costs :

- \$185 billion for alcohol
- \$193 billion for tobacco
- Federal (\$9 billion) and state (\$5.5 billion) alcohol taxes raise \$14.5 billion.
- Federal and state tobacco taxes raise \$25 billion.

COLORADO ADULT MARIJUANA USE

Past Month Pot Use (18-25)



COLORADO ADULT MARIJUANA USE

✕ Past month marijuana use (26+)

- + National average – 4.8%
- + Colorado average – 8.19%
- + 2008 – 5.32%
- + 2011 – 8.19%
- + 54% increase in 3 years



SECTION 4 – COLORADO ER ADMISSIONS

ANNUAL DEATHS

(UPTOKES FOR NEW ENGLAND ENTS!)

Tobacco	435,000
Poor Diet/Exercise	365,000
Alcohol	85,000
Prescription Drugs	32,000
Motor Vehicle Crashes	26,347
Homicide	20,308
Aspirin	7,600
Peanuts	100
Water Intoxication	6-8
Marijuana	0



MARIJUANA: Safer Than Peanuts AND WATER!

SAFETY AS PROCLAIMED FROM ABOVE



SECTION 4/5 – COLORADO ER VISITS

Isn't marijuana safe?

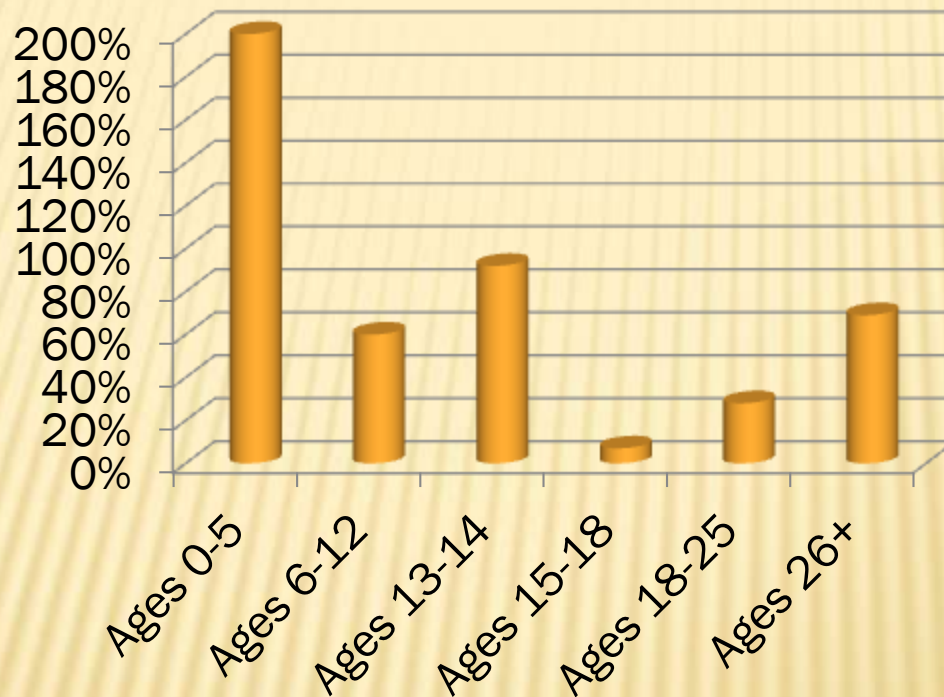
- ✗ Panic attacks
- ✗ Falls
- ✗ Accidents
- ✗ Delusions
- ✗ Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome – extreme stomach pain and violent vomiting

SECTION 4/5 – MARIJUANA ER VISITS

- ✖ 2009 – Marijuana was involved in 376,467 ER visits (NIDA)
- ✖ Higher rates for males
- ✖ Out of all illicit drugs, marijuana was most common in 18-20 year olds
- ✖ Alcohol – 658,263 (32% of all ER visits)
 - + Alcohol and marijuana combination 125,438 visits

COLORADO ER VISITS

ER Visits



■ ER Visits

0-5: 200% increase
6-12: 60% increase
13-14: 92% increase
15-18: 7% increase
18-25: 28% increase
26+: 69% increase

1. 2006- 2009 comparison to 2010-2012

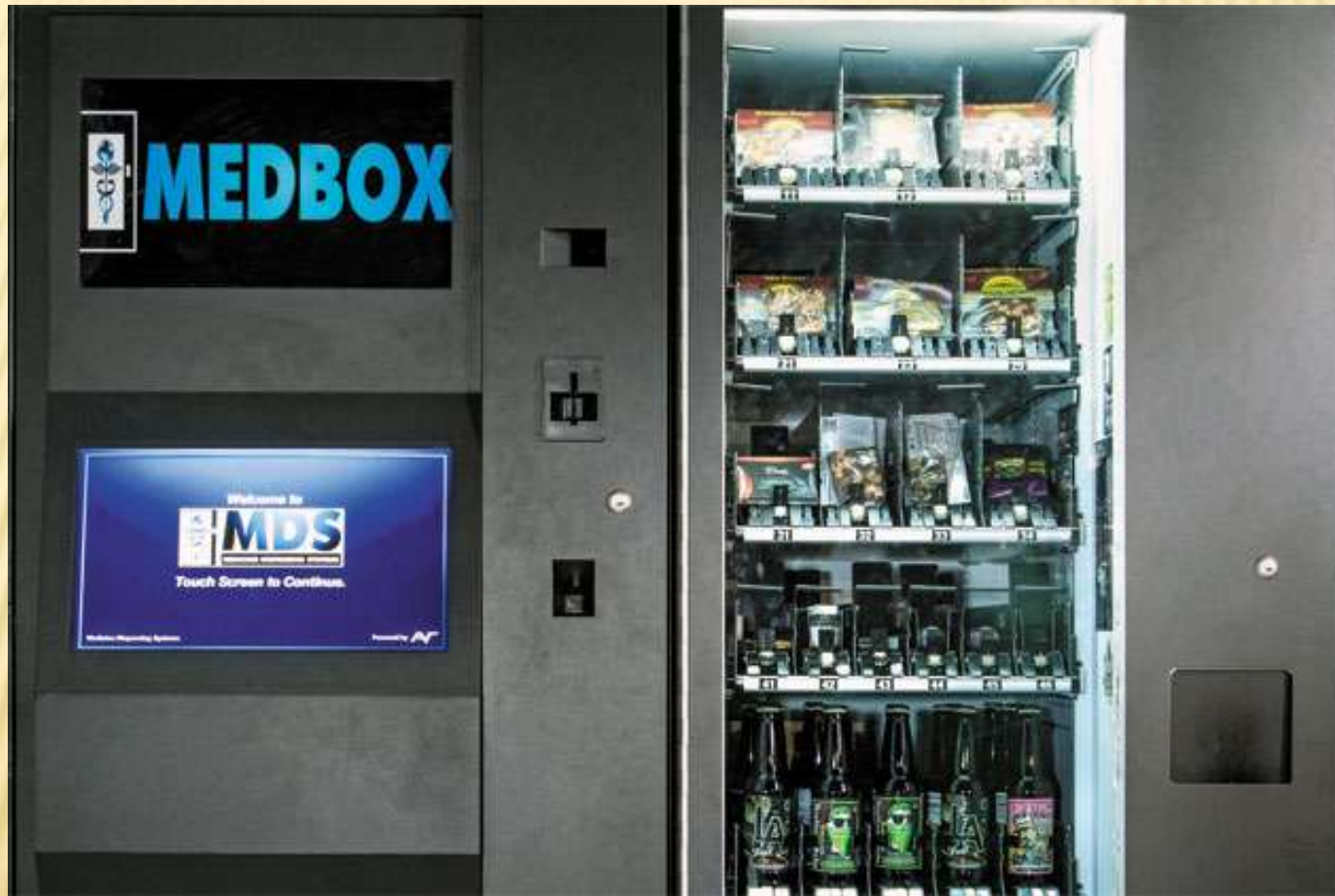
MARIJUANA COMMERCIALIZATION



MARIJUANA COMMERCIALIZATION



VENDING MACHINES



COLORADO ER VISITS

- ✖ In 2011, Marijuana-related incidents accounted for 26% of total ER visits. 2005 rate was 20%.
- ✖ 2010 – Ten month old twins ate marijuana infused trail mix.
- ✖ JAMA Pediatrics – “The consequences of unintentional marijuana exposure in children should be part of the ongoing debate on the legalization of marijuana.”

SECTION 6: COLORADO MARIJUANA DIVERSION

Amendment 64:

- ✘ Amendment 64 would regulate marijuana and restrict its sale to licensed stores, as we currently do with alcohol.
- ✘ Under Amendment 64, marijuana sales will be conducted in a regulated market in which checks for proof of age are mandatory and strictly enforced.

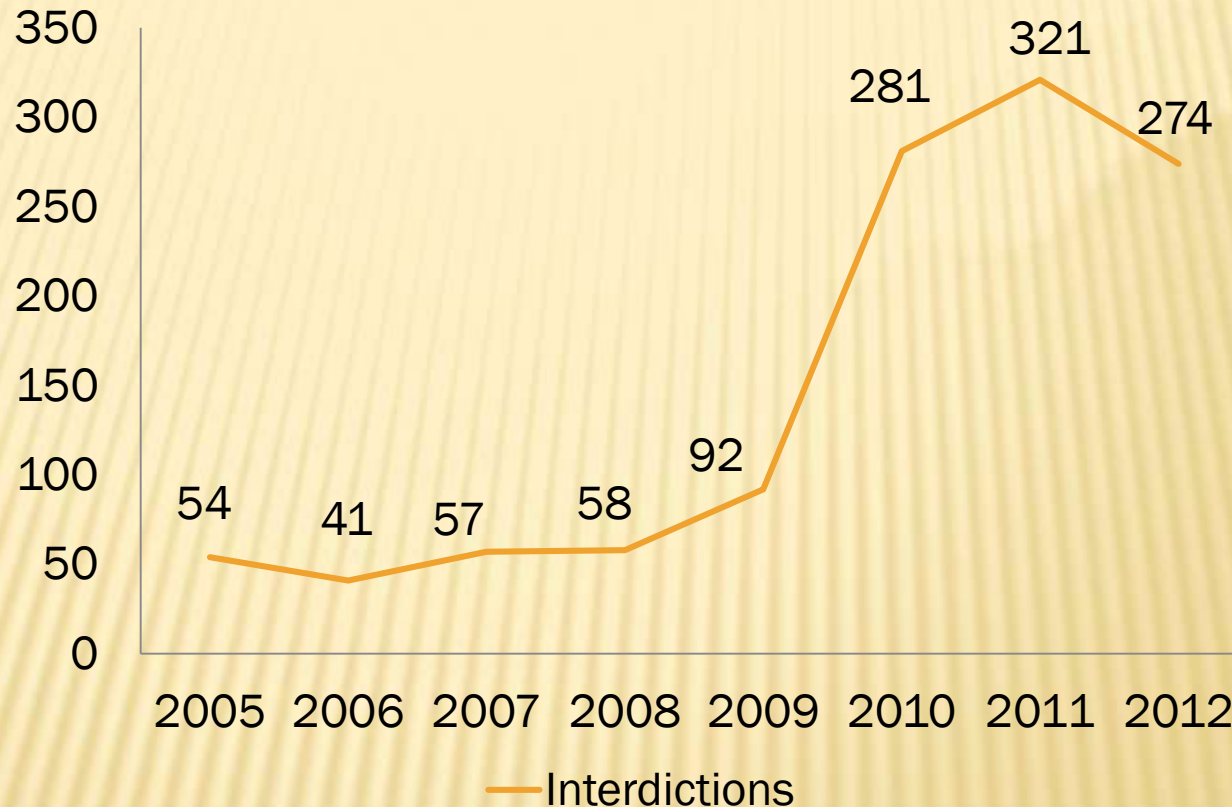
Top States to Which Colorado Marijuana Was Destined in 2012:

- ✓ Kansas (37)
 - ✓ Missouri (30)
 - ✓ Illinois (22)
 - ✓ Texas (18)
 - ✓ Wisconsin (18)
 - ✓ Florida (16)
 - ✓ Nebraska (13)
 - ✓ Iowa (10)
- ✓ 37 states were destined to receive Colorado weed



SECTION 6: DIVERSION OF COLORADO MARIJUANA

WHERE IS THE REGULATION?



2005-2012 – 407% Increase in Interdiction Seizures

HOW MUCH WAS SEIZED

- ✖ 2005-2008 – Average # of pounds seized:
2,220 pounds
- ✖ 2009-2012 – Average # of pounds seized:
3,937 pounds (77% increase)

Top three counties of marijuana origins

1. Denver (141)
2. Boulder (27)
3. El Paso (24)

POUNDS OF MARIJUANA SEIZURES

Pounds per Year



DRUG RUNNERS



USPS



COLORADO DIVERSIONS VIA THE US MAIL?

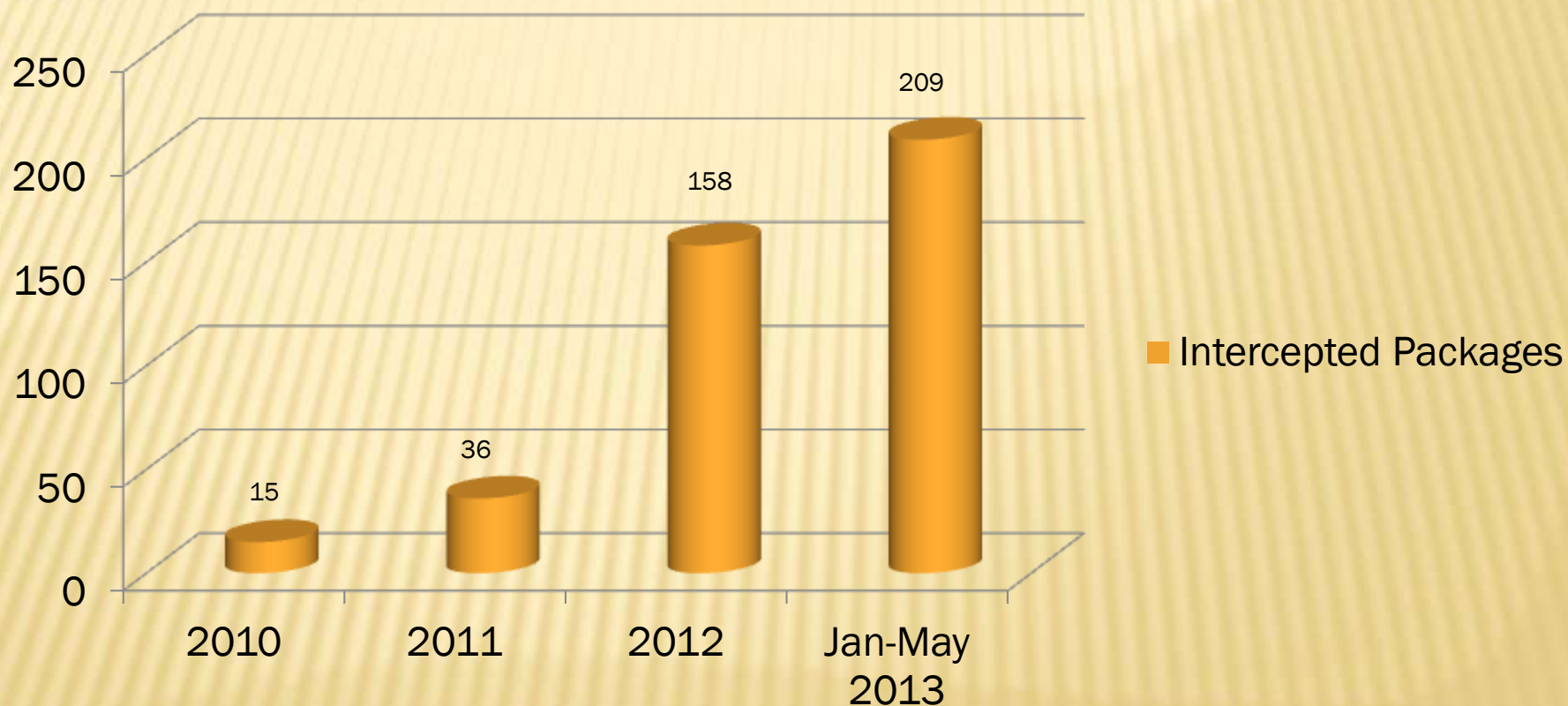
- ✗ United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) Prohibited Mailing of Narcotics database (PMN) database.

Sgt. Brad Williams, Chicago Police Dept.

“At least 50% of everything I get is from one of those states where it is legal to grow (CO and CA)...Officers seize at least one package coming from these states every day.”

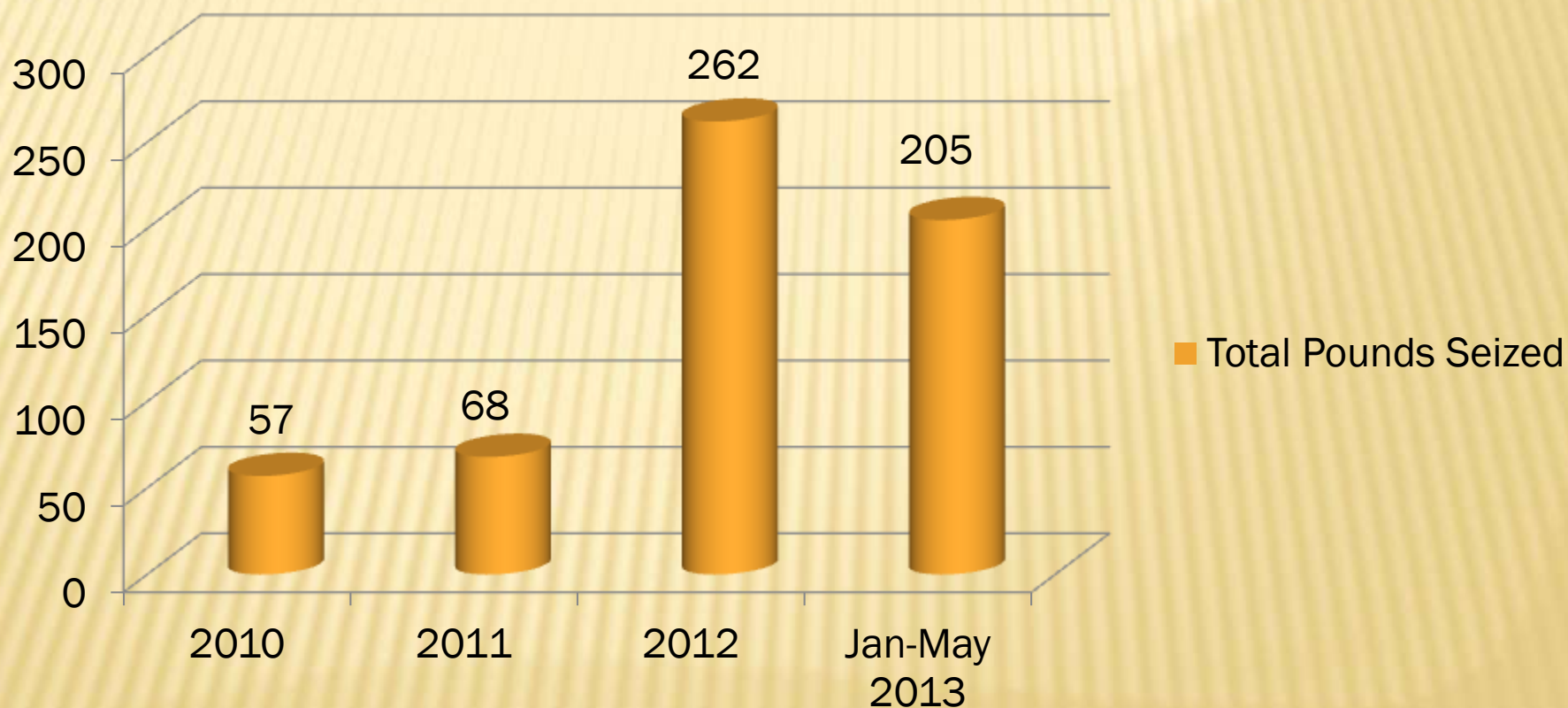
DIVERSTIONS THROUGH THE USPS

Intercepted Packages



DIVERSIONS THROUGH THE USPS

Total Pounds Seized



RESOURCES

- ✕ Drug Free Action Alliance
- ✕ Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America – www.cadca.org
- ✕ Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) – www.learnaboutsam.org

QUESTIONS



SESSION SURVEY



UPCOMING PROGRAM WEBINAR:



March 11, 2014

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tony Coder
Drug Free Action Alliance
6155 Huntley Road, Suite H
Columbus, OH 43229

tcoder@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org

614-540-9985

www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org/marijuana



Doc Hansen

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 7:59 AM
To: Paul Jewell; Obie OBrien; Gary Berndt
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Darren Higashiyama; Clayton Myers; Gene Dana; Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: FW: Marijuana Business Zoning

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

From: RFCB INC. [mailto:rpcb@elltel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 6:58 PM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: Marijuana Business Zoning

Board of commissioners Office
Paul Jewell
Gary Berndt
Obie O'Brien

Dear Sirs,

I would like to go on record as being another Kittitas County resident opposed to allowing marijuana grower/producers and retail outlets to be permitted here in Kittitas County.

I feel strongly that allowing these businesses to be established here will do nothing to enhance our community or benefit society in general. I foresee an increase in crime, illegal juvenile use, drug dependence, psychotic tendencies in all ages of users, traffic accidents, etc. In short, I see nothing positive except a "possible" increase in tax revenues for our government agencies.

My question to you as our leaders:

Is allowing these businesses to establish themselves, when it appears that we have a legal choice, here in Kittitas County worth the sacrifice? I don't think so and I hope that your conscience will guide you in whatever decision you make.

Sincerely,

Randy Fischer
4880 Robinson Canyon road
Ellensburg, Wa. 98926

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:29 PM
To: Gary Berndt; Paul Jewell; Obie OBrien
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson; Gene Dana; Clayton Myers; Darren Higashiyama
Subject: FW: Marijuana Zoning

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

*Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>*

From: Mike [mailto:mikegeb25@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:14 PM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: Marijuana Zoning

Dear Commissioners:

It's important to provide safe and proper zoning regulations for the production and sale of marijuana in Kittitas County. It's equally important to follow the will of the voters in Washington State. Isn't this how a democracy is designed to work?

Thank you

Mike Gebhardt
Ellensburg, Washington

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Dear Board of Commissioners and
Planning Committee: Kittitas County WA

February 28, 2014

RECEIVED
FEB 28 2014
KITITAS COUNTY
CDS

Dear Kittitas County,

Regarding Agriculture that requires security:
I oppose the 100 ft property line "buffer"

- 1) The state of Washington has provided strict guidelines for ^{the} marijuana industry. Growers/processors know the risks.
- 2) With this "buffer" only large corporations and the "legitimate arm" of crime organization will be able to afford the startup and continual overhead costs
- 3) The Medical Community will suffer. MMJ is about being able to function as opposed to "getting high"
- 4) Medical growers tend to be small operations with little or no profit margin
- 5) Medical patients process for themselves. ~~It~~ It is similar to having friends over for dinner - you don't need a food license. Medical patients need access to raw materials. Only small grows and collective gardens can provide this service

Please eliminate the "buffer" stipulation from
Agriculture that requires securing

Deborah Greenspan
Ellensburg

Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 7:53 AM
To: Gary Berndt; Obie OBrien; Paul Jewell
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Darren Higashiyama; Clayton Myers; Gene Dana; Jeff Watson; Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt
Subject: FW: concerns about ag zoning for marijauna growin operations

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

From: Brad Haddon [mailto:bradhaddon@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 9:13 PM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: concerns about ag zoning for marijauna growin operations

Dear members of the board

I am concerned with proposed set back requirements for indoor growing operations.

If the idea is to keep a growing operation out of sight and out of mind, then an indoor facility is the best way. To require a 100' set back from a property line to the building serves no purpose. However in an outdoor growing operation, I would be in favor of such set backs. Possibly more than 100'. In an indoor operation, no one knows it's there, unless they already know it's there. Where a building sits within the property boundaries is irrelevant! It is already shielded from the public by it's walls. I would ask that out of common sense, you would eliminate the set back requirement potential for an indoor growing operation.

Thank you

Regards

Brad Haddon

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Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: comments- heimbeck I502

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Marijuana in Kittitas County? NO!

Dear cds,

My wife Cynthia Kriebel and I, Raeburne S. Heimbeck, of Ellensburg, strongly disapprove allowing the growing, processing, and public sale of marijuana in Kittitas County. We foresee SOCIAL problems and headaches from permitting a legalized pot industry here in our special valley: increased use in all age groups, more addiction, more need for rehab funded at least partially at public expense, more crime as attempts are made to steal from growers and retailers, more cartel activity as the black market attempts to undercut the legal price, more "drug tourists" from out of State, more traffic and road accidents, and, saddest of all, deleterious effects on young brains. The arguments for legalized pot, as we see it, are all grounded in personal gratification. (I exclude the separate issue of medical marijuana.) When PUBLIC WELFARE is held uppermost, we believe the conclusion is a resounding "NO". We, therefore, urge the County Planning Commission, the County Commissioners, and the Ellensburg City Council to disallow legalized pot in Kittitas County and Ellensburg.

My wife and I are both retired CWU professors, she in Art and I in Philosophy and Religious Studies. She has resided in Kittitas County (Ellensburg) since 1973 and I since 1967. This Valley has become dear to us both. We esteem the high quality of life here, the community spirit among neighbors, and the beauty and beatific atmosphere of the place. We would have these salient features of Kittitas County preserved, not compromised. We believe a legalized pot industry here would diminish such attributes of our chosen habitat.

Respectfully, Rae Heimbeck and Cindy Kriebel

Rae Heimbeck <heimkrie@kvalley.com>

Rose Shriner
Permit Technician
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St Ste.2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(p) 509.962.7506
(f) 509.962.7682
rose.shriner@co.kittitas.wa.us

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: William Holmes
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:56 AM
To: Doc Hansen
Subject: Marijuana

Dear Mr. Hansen:

Please make the below information available to the Planning Commission for their discussion of I502 implementation which the BOCC has referred to them.

Dear Planning Commission Members:

I recognize that your role is to address concerns specific to your role but ask you to consider the below message to the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners for background to your decision making in the area of I502 implementation.

Dear Sirs:

I appreciate that the citizens of Washington put you, our County leaders, in a difficult place by the passage of I 502. I recognize the authority you have and the area(s) where you have decision making regarding implementation of I 502 are limited. My position is also limited in what I may do while staying within my role in accordance with the Code of Judicial Conduct as specifically delineated in those Canons and the Opinions from the Ethics Advisory Committee. What I may do is provide information, with overriding concern for integrity and impartiality, to advance the administration of justice. The increased presence of marijuana may have harmful effects upon our community and to the extent its advertisement and presence can be limited it would be beneficial to those this department currently has responsibility for and our community.

To that end, that of advancing the administration of justice, please be aware of the current concerns regarding the use of marijuana as reflected in our current Kittitas County Probation Services caseloads.

Regarding the Juvenile Court Services Caseload:

- For decades one of the top four or five criminal offense referrals to the Juvenile Court Services department is for Possession of Marijuana Less Than 40 grams. If criminal offense referrals for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (which is almost always marijuana smoking devices) were added marijuana related behavior would normally be one of the very highest causes for criminal referral to this juvenile court. If possession of larger amounts than 40 grams and Intent to Deliver were included, marijuana effected offense referrals would likely be only topped by alcohol related offenses as a highest reason for criminal referrals.
- The urinalyses results we see are usually well over 100 ng/ml. Yesterday's reports reviewed were for 162, 221 & 334 ng/ml. "5 ng/ml is the science-based limit to active THC blood concentration" to determine a new marijuana DUI standard.
- Local kids report either seeing no harm in using marijuana or using to self-medicate for depression, pain control/management, anxiety. (As marijuana is a central nervous system depressant that puts them into a circle of (illegal) use to "treat" with a substance which produces the symptoms they indicate they are trying to relieve.)
- Our kids indicate their access to marijuana frequently comes from medical marijuana of family/friends

- Nationally & reflective of our Healthy Youth Survey, a few facts about youth using marijuana:
 - To quote an American Child and Adolescent Neuro-Psychiatrist: “The toxic properties of chemical molecules and their cellular damage are not matters of opinion or debate. . . . We cannot vote for or against the ‘toxicity’ of a drug.
 - Chemically, marijuana is a far more dangerous drug than most of the scientifically ignorant media and North American consumer have been duped into believing.” [Robert C. Gilkeson, M.D.]
 - 2010 NSDUH: Of the 7.1 million Americans ages 12+ classified with illicit drug dependence or abuse, 4.5 million had marijuana or hashish dependence or abuse listed treatment causes
 - 43% vs 26% Depression reported by student users vs non users
 - Critical skills (memory & learning) are significantly impaired in users even 24 hrs after
 - Lowest school grades are two to one more likely to occur for users through the higher grade levels
 - 2010 58% of new users were under 18

Regarding our Adult Misdemeanant Caseload:

- In a snapshot from December 12, 2013 of the 4,553 open cases by charge, Possession of Marijuana is the 4th highest criminal referral reason
 - Again if you add *just* Possession of Drug Paraphrenalia marijuana becomes the 3rd highest reason for District & Municipal Court supervision
 - 25% of our referrals are DUI’s (DUI’s are frequently reduced to Reckless or Negligent Driving) 1,137 DUI’s are reflected in our current caseload
- We have been logging release of information to treatment agencies for DUI’s since February, the referrals usually involve either direct referral for marijuana being the drug effecting the driver’s performance or a contributing factor
- The same as youth higher levels of THC than in the past reflected in the adult probationers UA’s

I know you are concerned for the impact on our county. Following are effects of marijuana we *know*:

- Marijuana usage poses significant health risks to:
 - Lungs & respiratory system
 - Hearts
 - Brains
 - Central Nervous System
 - Cancer
 - Mental Health
 - Learning and Social Behavior
 - Immune System
 - Pregnancy
 - Of Addiction
 - Withdrawal
 - Critical Thinking Skills
 - Driving Performance
 - Reproduction
 - Industrial Accidents
 - Absenteeism

Concerns we may face with the increased presence of marijuana may include:

- Increased need for chemical dependency treatment services (at the same time resources have been dwindling for treatment)
- Potential for increased law enforcement need for determining, monitoring, responding to areas where the drug is being lawfully and unlawfully grown, produced or sold
 - Presence of weapons and violence related to drug thefts and criminal market presence and practices
 - Increased law enforcement response usually means all facets of the criminal justice system has increased duties
 - Both are reflections of increased cost to provide criminal justice services
 - Increased DUI's and harm from DUI's
- The criminal justice system deals with people harming others and themselves, usually due to poor decisions, most of the time because of some substance affect on thought processes. Marijuana negatively influences critical thinking processes

Thank you for your consideration of these effects and factors in your decisions on siting and zoning. I stand ready to provide you greater specifics and sources of the above facts and information should you desire.

Sincerely,

William D. Holmes, Director
 Kittitas County Probation Services
 (509) 962.7516

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Doc Hansen

From: William Holmes
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:29 AM
To: Doc Hansen
Subject: FW: Drug Free Action Alliance Follow-up
Attachments: Marijuana Messaging & The Rocky Mountain HIDTA Report - Webinar - 2-11-14.pdf

Dear Planning Commission Members:

Please find linked below, at the third bullet, the report from which I drew my remarks at your 2/25/2014 meeting. Attached is a PowerPoint presentation which presented the report at a recent webinar.

William D. Holmes, Director
Kittitas County Probation Services
(509) 962.7516

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From: Derek Longmeier [mailto:dlongmeier@drugfreeactionalliance.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 9:00 AM
To: Derek Longmeier
Cc: Tony Coder; Allison Sharer
Subject: Drug Free Action Alliance Follow-up

Dear Prevention Partner:

Thank you for registering for the Drug Free Action Alliance program webinar, *Marijuana Messaging and the Rocky Mountain HIDTA Report*.

Here are the resources, as promised.

- The recorded session is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piSj9Xdy30Q>
- Webinar PowerPoint (Attached)
- Link to 2013 HIDTA Report: <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/files/occe-hidta-mj-rpt-co-13.pdf>
- Marijuana Resources, including the Marijuana Quiz and sources from Tony's presentation, are available at <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/marijuana>.
- Drug Free Action Alliance Position Paper on Marijuana as Medicine: <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/drug-free-advocacy/position-papers>

To register for the Blunt Truth newsletter, a twice-monthly publication showcasing stories related to marijuana, contact our Program Assistant, Karen Downing at Contact@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

To contract with Drug Free Action Alliance to bring Tony to your community, contact the Drug Free Action Alliance Director of Programs, Allison Sharer, at 614.540.9985 ext. 19 or ASharer@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

Sincerely,
Derek Longmeier, MBA, OCPS II



Drug Free Action Alliance

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Coordinator
Problem Gambling Prevention Program Manager
Drug Free Action Alliance
6155 Huntley Road, Suite H
Columbus, Ohio 43229
PH: (614) 540-9985 ext. 16
FX: (614) 540-9990
www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org

Lifetime Prevention
Lifetime Wellness

Join us on [**Facebook**](#)

Have you seen the new Drug Free Action Alliance publication? "Why Scare Tactics in Drug Prevention Messaging Don't Work" is a simple, research based booklet and can be ordered [here](#) today!

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Jeff Watson

From: Julie Kjorsvik
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 10:22 AM
To: Gene Dana; Clayton Myers; Darren Higashiyama; Lindsey Ozbolt; Doc Hansen; Jeff Watson; Neil Caulkins
Subject: FW: Marijuana

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

From: Gary Berndt
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 9:38 AM
To: Julie Kjorsvik
Subject: FW: Marijuana

From: Mssweeth2o [mailto:mssweeth2o@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 7:30 AM
To: Obie OBrien; Gary Berndt; Paul Jewell
Subject: Marijuana

I served as a social worker in Seattle/King County for over 30 years. You can't imagine what your "zones" and increased drug usage and availability will do to this county. We do not have even a smattering of the infrastructure that will be needed to support the result of your intentions in this area. You are working in the wrong direction entirely. We elected you. To zone for a drug that has no positive qualities? I don't think so. Have any of you ever personally fought an addiction that is as detrimental as marijuana? Do you believe that it doesn't lead to more exploration with other drugs? Do each of you know that just like insidious weeds in hay fields, marijuana growers/users/sellers have NO intentions of remaining within your "zones?"

Seriously, don't you all have MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE WORKING ON? The idea for control zones is not a functional reality. You have bigger fish to fry and none of us who elected you want to hear "dinner is going to be late!" J. R. Larson, family history in this county for multiple generations, proud resident for over 20 years.

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RICHARD LUCHSINGER
9300 Brick Mill Rd.
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-968-3714

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2014

1st ☒ 2nd ☒ 3rd ☒
KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CDS
SO
PA
Comment file

February 27, 2014

County Commissioners

Re: Comments re Pot Farms in Kittitas County

We strongly urge you to place a moratorium on any kind of zoning within the County until it has been studied thoroughly. For instance:

- Law enforcement. Pot farms will need special security. Theft and strong-armed robberies have occurred in areas that sell medical marijuana, let alone a pot farm. And how will our local law enforcement be able to patrol, enforce and arrest drug addicts, thieves, and drug cartel? How will adjacent farms and properties be protected?
- Pot farms may need to be placed in "industrial" zoning areas, not farmland. Agricultural areas need to be left as "agricultural."
- Water use. Do pot farms get a special deal on water? Are they allowed to drill special wells? Use the irrigation water year-round? All other agriculture's irrigation water is turned off in October.
- Wells. In King County in the 1980s, the County allowed wells to be drilled in areas that went dry some years in the summer. In that period when they went dry, the residents sued the County and won. The County had to come up with a water district to provide water year-round to those residents at a great cost. Will this rezoning result in their getting special water concessions?
- The roads. Our county roads were not built for major traffic to a pot farm. It's difficult enough with the traffic generated from all the hay fields on the small county roads. Imagine how much more truck and car traffic will be necessary to support a pot farm in a rural area.

Until the present day, Kittitas County has been fortunate not to have the drug problems that one finds as close as Toppenish, Yakima and Sunnyside. With the advent of marijuana farms, we can expect much more drug trafficking in our relatively safe area, much more theft and violence in town and surrounding rural areas.

In the late '80s, Harborview Hospital had an article in The Times that alcoholics and drug addicts cost over \$1,000,000 per year treating their injuries and problems. Who is going to pay for these costs?

We urge you to take a long hard look at how these issues will offset whatever income the County could or would make.




Jane McClenney

Richard Luchsinger

Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 7:54 AM
To: Gary Berndt; Paul Jewell; Obie OBrien
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Gene Dana; Clayton Myers; Darren Higashiyama; Jeff Watson; Lindsey Ozbolt; Doc Hansen
Subject: FW: Marijuana Farms

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

From: JaneMcc [mailto:janemcc@fairpoint.net]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 6:28 AM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: Marijuana Farms

County Commissioners

Re: Comments re Pot Farms in Kittitas County

We strongly urge you to place a moratorium on any kind of zoning within the County until it has been studied thoroughly. For instance:

- Law enforcement. Pot farms **will** need special security. Theft and strong-armed robberies have occurred in areas that sell medical marijuana, let alone a pot farm. And how will our local law enforcement be able to patrol, enforce and arrest drug addicts, thieves, and drug cartel? How will adjacent farms and properties be protected?
- Pot farms may need to be placed in "industrial" zoning areas, not farmland. Agricultural areas need to be left as "agricultural."
- Water use. Do pot farms get a special deal on water? Are they allowed to drill special wells? Use the irrigation water year-round? All other agriculture's irrigation water is turned off in October.
- Wells. In King County in the 1980s, the County allowed wells to be drilled in areas that went dry some years in the summer. In that period when they went dry, the residents sued the County and won. The County had to come up with a water district to provide water year-round to those residents at a great cost. Will this rezoning result in their getting special water concessions?
- The roads. Our county roads were not built for major traffic to a pot farm. It's difficult enough with the traffic generated from all the hay fields on the small county roads. Imagine how much more truck and car traffic will be necessary to support a pot farm in a rural area.

Until the present day, Kittitas County has been fortunate not to have the drug problems that one finds as close as Toppenish, Yakima and Sunnyside. With the advent of marijuana farms, we can expect much more drug trafficking in our relatively safe area, much more theft and violence in town and surrounding rural areas. In the late '80s, Harborview Hospital had an article in The Times that alcoholics and drug addicts cost over \$1,000,000 per year treating their injuries and problems. Who is going to pay for these costs?

We urge you to take a long hard look at how these issues will offset whatever income the County could or would make.

Jane McClenney
Richard Luchsinger

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 2:58 PM
To: Paul Jewell; Obie OBrien; Gary Berndt
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson; Gene Dana; Clayton Myers; Darren Higashiyama
Subject: FW: Public comment on marijuana zoning

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

From: Sue Nelson [mailto:snelson33@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 2:20 PM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: Public comment on marijuana zoning

2/28/2014

TO: Kittitas County Planning Commission
RE: Public comment on marijuana zoning

I am writing in support of our county passing an ordinance to sell marijuana. From a business standpoint this would be a financial advantage for our county.

I understand the concern of many citizens, but I have the same view on this situation as I do with alcohol sales. If regulated, it is up to each of us as adults to manage usage.

I decided to write a response on this issue after viewing the television special on Colorado's marijuana sales. The financial gains for their state are remarkable!

Why not study what Colorado has put into law? In November, 2012, the people of Washington State voted "yes" to legalize recreational marijuana use and sale;

I feel our county should move forward with the current proposal of the Planning Commission.

This issue was voted on and it is a state law.

Thank you,
Sue Nelson

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message id: 38eb45916cdcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: mike graham <mikefreightwing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 10:40 AM
To: Doc Hansen
Subject: I-502 Progress
Attachments: Kittitas County I-502 Zoning.docx

Doc,

Thanks for your work in presenting an objective overview of the I-502 issues for the Planning Commission to address. I sent my written comments to cds@co.kittitas.wa.us, I also attached the document to this email. Could you let me know if by chance I sent to the wrong address?

If possible, could you urge the Planning Commission to preform their due diligence and come forward with their recommendations for the commissioners? I believe I have offered some good feedback to address the problems with the 100' setback and if we can apply just a little common sense to this situation, we should be able to find a workable solution. In the end, perhaps it would be better to just make all individual site plans subject to ACU approval following guidance that all possible steps must be taken to preserve rural character.

It was a bit concerning hearing from the Planning Commission that 2 more weeks are needed to come back to address these issues. Please keep in mind the constraints of the outdoor growing season and that the early season propagation requirements for cannabis are much more complex than ordinary crops. It is essential that a timeline for the county is sensitive to this as well the complexities of the LCB application requirements.

Thank You,

Mike Graham
Natural Mystic Farms
814.769.1278

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Cc: Steph Mifflin
Subject: I-502 Comments
Attachments: Kittitas County I-502 Zoning.docx

Dear Planning Office,

Please enter the attached document into to the record so that planning officials and the planning commission can review.

Thank You,

Mike Graham
Natural Mystic Farms
5810 Naneum Rd., Ellensburg
814-769-1278

Rose Shriner
Permit Technician
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St Ste.2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(p) 509.962.7506
(f) 509.962.7682
rose.shriner@co.kittitas.wa.us

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcdbdac24bb8719d004a14

Kittitas County Zoning Land-Use Rules For I-502 Marijuana Production

Care must be taken in developing land use rules for the new state licensed I-502 marijuana production. This new farming opportunity in the county represents a significant economic opportunity with the state wholesale value of this crop being estimated at 200 million. If managed correctly, the county could realize new revenue similar to the top cash crop of the valley, timothy hay. These benefits will not be achieved if unrealistic demands are placed on development as this business will simply go to other counties with better policies for growth of a new industry.

The proposed zoning restrictions do indeed have a positive intent in so far as preserving rural character of the county, but fail in terms of bringing forward the means to balance this intent with the practical needs of agricultural production. In some cases, the proposed restrictions actually do the opposite of what is intended.

It is worth noting that these draft rules were put forward before the state LCB released a dramatically scaled down allotment of space that can be used for production. The size of the I-502 grows were taken down from a maximum of 90,000 sq. ft. to a new maximum of 21,000. So the concerns of the county that necessitated these new considerations are now somewhat obsolete. With the new limitations of size, it does make sense to revert to the original guidance from the county planners to the commissioner's office that I-502 production should simply be considered a standard agricultural land use as it is in other counties. Treating I-502 production as a standard agricultural use by no means implies that there are no rules regarding this production, the state LCB has a comprehensive set of requirements that have been developed over time to ensure that no aspects of production are unregulated.

If new rules have to be proposed, here are some suggestions on how they might work for producers and still fulfill their intent of preserving rural character issues:

100' setback requirement from side and rear property lines – this will absolutely not work as intended and should not be applied as an absolute requirement. First, it makes no sense to be applied to the side and the rear when 99.9% of the visual exposure to operations would occur from the front of the property or where public access is possible. It also is not relevant when neighboring properties have no residential use.

A better approach would be to propose a setback requirement of 100' from a neighboring residence. This fulfills the intent of the rule without causing unrealistic demands on the farmer. There are several alternate ways to achieve the intent of this rule without creating an unworkable demand.

Treatment of non-conforming lots – the intent here is to prevent small lots in an agricultural zone that may actually be more residentially focused from engaging in inappropriate farming activities. Again, not a bad thought, but the wide scope of the proposed rule presents an unfair burden to non-conforming lots that are larger and indeed farm focused.

A better approach would be to limit additional demands to non conforming lots in AG20 under 5 acres in size – this serves the intent of the rule without harming producers operating within the spirit of this rule.

It should be remembered that Kittitas is a right to farm county and that the needs of the farmer in agricultural areas do indeed take precedence over residential considerations. There are many aspects of farming that may prevent a slight inconvenience to residential home owners, but this part of country living is written into county code for a very good reason. The importance of the right to farm provision should not be diminished for a certain type of agricultural production.

To give real world examples of how non flexible rules can actually create an opposite effect, I will follow with a couple examples based on the layout of the Natural Mystic Farms site plan:



Above is the original plan for 90,000 sq. ft. in the green area. This plan was well set back from public access and respected the only neighboring residential lots to the south. A 100' setback requirement in red illustrates what the proposed setback rules would do – nothing for the residential neighbors and forcing the production to the front of the lot. Almost all the 100 year old plus trees on the lot would have to be cut down and the public would see a fenced bare lot instead of the historic farm property.

Below is a representation of the new site plan based on the new LCB rules:



The red represents the space needed for production and in compliance with the proposed 100' setback. The purple space on the north side represents the area greatly needed for a production situation that would be efficient, cost effective and be out of the sight of the southern residential neighbors.

Most important in losing this northern production space would be a devastating loss of the historic 1927 barn that gives the operation 4,000 sq. ft. of indoor production space. Here is a picture of this barn hoping to be utilized:



This barn has been in disuse for almost 30 years, but can now be brought back into its original intended use to facilitate agricultural production. This historic barn important to the history of this farming community can be renovated and maintained if given a reason to be utilized. If the operation was denied the use of this building due to inflexible zoning requirements it would be a shame and serve no purpose. It would require the expenditure of significant operating capital constructing a new large steel building that would not add to the rural character of the valley and no money would be left to maintain what would be a useless structure.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to reach out with any questions or requests for additional information.

Mike Graham

NMF Enterprises / Natural Mystic Farms

5810 Naneum Rd., Ellensburg, WA

mikefreightwing@gmail.com

814-769-1278

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 4:54 PM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Subject: comments- russell I502

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of Kittitas county, 709 E Manitoba Ave, I wanted to voice my opinion about producer/processors operating in and around the area. I was at the meeting the other night and believe the current proposed zoning restrictions are right on target. If anything I would keep it out of the densely populated areas but the proposed plan sounded good.

I believe the potential income that this could generate for the county, even if not yet, could benefit us and also having recently searched for jobs the added employment could benefit us as well.

The banking industry is working on a solution which would definitely decrease the potential for crime but due to the insane amount of surveillance required by the liquor control board I don't think it will be much of a problem.

I think the 100 foot set back seems very fair to keep it out of the face of neighbors but believe the requirements for being unobtrusive are good.

I also know that there is a potential for municipalities to be sued by people that have applied for their licenses. I, for one, would much rather spend my tax dollars somewhere other than fighting in court.

Thank you for your time.

Heather Russell
Heather Russell <heathern1774@hotmail.com>

Rose Shriner
Permit Technician
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St Ste.2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(p) 509.962.7506
(f) 509.962.7682
rose.shriner@co.kittitas.wa.us

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Public Comment pertaining to Proposed Marijuana Regulation

Regarding proposed amendments to the Kittitas County Zoning Code regulating where marijuana may be grown and/or processed it must be stated that despite the State of Washington legalizing the sale and use of recreational marijuana the Federal Government's stance on marijuana is that "it is a dangerous drug and that illegal distribution and sale of marijuana is a serious crime," (www.whitehouse.gov). Washington Initiative 502 circumvents federal law, and although the current federal administration is currently lenient future administrations may insist that federal law be followed. The legal drinking age in Idaho being changed from 18 to 21 to comply with Federal law is a case in point.

The Office of the Attorney General of Washington State has given authority to local governments to ban marijuana business from their jurisdictions. Being that Initiative 502 is so radical in nature, a moral dilemma to many, and legally conflicting with Federal law, it seems proper that Kittitas County use its authority to keep this unprecedented drug industry banned at this time. There are too many unforeseen variables that will become evident in the future; including appropriate regulation most notably, but also affect on crime, drops in property values, and other yet to be seen negative impacts. Also, these proposes growing operations do not fit with current county agriculture models. Washington State is not a pioneer in the legalization of marijuana, but rather in an experiment with a lot of probable negative outcomes. We should not let our county be part of it.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Sample
4001 Lyons Rd.
Ellensburg, WA 98926
rjsample@fairpoint.net

Jeff Watson

From: Rose Shriner
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 7:52 AM
To: Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson
Cc: Steph Mifflin
Subject: comments- sorensen I502

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

February 27, 2014

Kittitas County Planning Commission,

I am writing you about my concerns about the proposed agricultural zoning, permit and public review requirements for marijuana growing and processing businesses in rural areas of Kittitas County.

My first concern is about the crime and safety in rural areas and families. My family has farmed in Badger Pocket for many years. Things have changed a lot since the sage brush has been removed and water became available to develop the farm ground. It used to be that you could leave your equipment in the fields and if you do now usually equipment will get vandalized. Things need to be secured at your home and even that does not help. This past year we have neighbors that have harassed us with racing illegal motor cycles past our homes, in our fields, on the ditch banks. The sheriff's office has been called several times which results in retaliation by riding these racing bikes in our yards and fields. Two of the neighbors that have applied for permits to grow marijuana have been engaged in a confrontation this past fall with one neighbor going home and getting his gun and shooting at the other neighbor. It makes me wonder that there are already problems and if they get permits to grow marijuana will this behavior change or become worse. How is the State going to determine the best places in Kittitas Valley to give permits when they do not know the conditions on the east side of the state? This past year my quality of life has disappeared. I used to be able to walk down the road to get exercise and am scared to do that any more.

I did attend the public hearing on February 25, 2014. It was unnerving to me to hear that the rules that are being worked on here are more lax than other areas. The people from the west side are flocking here to sign up for marijuana growing and processing businesses. If you look at the voting records the new recreational marijuana law was promoted and passed by counties on the west side with the most influential being King County. Kittitas County did not have a majority vote for legalizing marijuana. The new rules for Kittitas County should be as strict if not stricter than other counties. These decisions should not be based on potential tax revenue but safety and well being of the people in our community. We should look out for our future generation and look at the possibility of the potential problems from this new marijuana law.

My husband and I were in Denver, Colorado in the middle of January. Every night on the news they talked about all the crime that was happening for the marijuana businesses. Colorado is now telling how much money they have received for the new marijuana business. My question is how much are they spending with the criminal justice system. I would hope that the county would have consideration for the safety of the county.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Julie Sorensen
Concerned Farm owner
Julie Sorensen <jjjsorensen88@hotmail.com>

Rose Shriner
Permit Technician
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St Ste.2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(p) 509.962.7506
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rose.shriner@co.kittitas.wa.us

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 11:48 AM
To: Gary Berndt; Obie OBrien; Paul Jewell
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Jeff Watson; Clayton Myers; Gene Dana; Darren Higashiyama
Subject: FW: marijuana zoning

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

*Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>*

From: Gloria [mailto:swanglo@fairpoint.net]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 11:28 AM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: marijuana zoning

Dear Commissioners,

Please declare a moratorium on the marijuana issue.

We recently moved to this city and bought a home just one mile north of CWU. We have great neighbors. Recently a family moved here from Vancouver BC. He buys hay for Japan (the special hay which is grown in this county.) If the hay becomes infected with any stray crops such as marijuana, the whole county will suffer from loss of income. This would be a disaster for Kittitas County.

What would happen to the enrollment of CWU? Would parents hesitate to send their 18-19 old students here?

The crime rate would increase in spite of high expectations of those selling this substance to people who want to use it.

There would be more thefts and other crimes committed by people who are involved in this scheme.

The police department would have more calls for thefts, auto accidents and home break ins would accelerate. Medical care would also be at a premium and more difficult to receive.

There are many more issues that I will not address at this time.

Sincerely,

Paul & Gloria Swanson

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

Jeff Watson

From: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 2:19 PM
To: Obie OBrien; Gary Berndt; Paul Jewell
Cc: Neil Caulkins; Doc Hansen; Lindsey Ozbolt; Darren Higashiyama; Clayton Myers; Gene Dana
Subject: FW: Marijuana Growing Application Protest

Julie Kjorsvik
Clerk of the Board
Kittitas County Board of Commissioners
205 West 5th Ave. Room 108
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7508
<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us>

From: Marilyn Thompson [mailto:catwoman.marilyn@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 1:33 PM
To: Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Subject: Marijuana Growing Application Protest

I am writing to voice my opposition to allowing marijuana to be grown at 270 Mission Road (location of the SDA Christian School) License #s 417004 and 417005 Spoiled Gardens listed as applicant. There is not adequate water available; Taneum Creek which borders the property is a Salmon habitat; three homes in close proximity and about 20 in the surrounding area. Property is also bordered by a farm which grows organic vegetables. The site is visible from I-90.

I do not think a business such as this belongs in this area. I am not against the growing of marijuana if the growing location is well off the beaten path.....east end of the valley; up under the power lines; not in an area with high traffic volume.

I was on the school board of the former school for several years with at least two as chair of the board. I do not think there is adequate water for growing this crop; This building is not completed as far as additional construction done inside.....i.e. the wiring has to be redone in the newer construction area. I am not sure it would pass a building inspection.

I oppose using this site for this type of business. If the sellers had known what the property would be used for the sale would not have gone through.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Marilyn Thompson
Ellensburg, WA

--

Habakkuk 3:17-19 "Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as a deer, able to tread upon the heights."

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KITTITAS CTY. COMM. DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES. REGARDING MARIJUANA SALES
AND GROWERS

DEAR SIRS/MADAME,

PLEASE REVIEW COPY OF TODAY'S
YAKIMA HERALD REPUBLIC IN REGARDS
TO REVENUE FROM MARIJUANA SALES
AND ALTHOUGH YAKIMA HAS A MORA-
TORIUM ON THIS. THEY WOULD EXPECT
REVENUES TO BE SHARED IN LIGHT
OF FUTURE PROBLEMS & NEEDED LAW
ENFORCEMENT. THEIR POINT IS A
VALID ONE.

RESPECTFULLY,
Daniel Wagner

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2014

KITTITAS COUNTY
CDS

READ →
odel



by ANDY SAWYER/Yakima Herald-Republic
w benches, lights, trees and

Yakima likely to seek tax proceeds from pot sales

Council to decide after mayor's
unauthorized signature put
on letter requesting revenue

BY KATE PRENGAMAN
YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

The Yakima City Council is expected to support a request by the Association of Washington Cities asking the state to share recreational marijuana taxes with cities.

City Manager Tony O'Rourke said he expects the City Council to support the AWC's position when it holds a special meeting called to discuss the issue at 9:30 a.m. Friday at City Hall.

The AWC released a letter to state officials dated Feb. 24 supporting the request with the signatures of Yakima Mayor Micah Cawley and almost 100 other mayors.

However, Cawley didn't give permission to have his signature included because he hadn't had a chance to talk with fellow council members about the

SEE **LETTER** PAGE 5A

LETTER

Continued from 1A

request.

O'Rourke said an electronic copy of Cawley's signature was sent to the AWC by mistake after a wrong assumption was made by city staff.

"His signature was erroneously permitted to be used," O'Rourke said in an interview. "Not his mistake, it was our mistake."

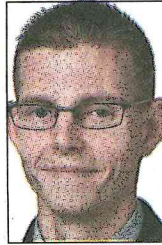
The letter says cities will be responsible for enforcing the new law and deserve a share of tax revenue the state expects to collect from

recreational marijuana businesses. The letter bears the signatures of other Yakima Valley mayors, including those from Mabton, Prosser and Sunnyside.

The city of Yakima's ban on marijuana businesses does not prohibit possession and use by adults.

But because marijuana use is now legal, O'Rourke said the city expects to see increased needs for law enforcement.

"Regardless of whether you permit or prohibit the sale of recreational marijuana, cities still are going to be financially impacted by the law," O'Rourke said. "We will be arresting people



Cawley

signed it called sharing tax revenue "a matter of common sense and fairness."

Under the voter-approved Initiative 502, which legalized recreational marijuana, most of the new tax revenue is allocated to health care, youth drug prevention, public health and research.

Cawley said he had

stoned driving their cars, we will be dealing with juveniles in possession."

In the letter, the mayors who actually

received an email from AWC asking him to sign the request that the state share the tax revenue, but declined because it was a policy issue and as such needed to be addressed by the council. Then on Wednesday, he received an email from fellow Councilman Rick Ensey asking why he had signed the letter. Cawley said that was the first he heard about his name being attached to the letter.

In an email to council members on Wednesday, O'Rourke explained how Cawley's name ended up on the letter.

"Mayor Cawley did

not consent to putting his signature on the AWC letter. Instead, an assumption was made by city staff that the direction given by the Council during discussions earlier this year about legislation regarding retail marijuana included making the city's position known to the legislature through whatever means up to and including testifying before the legislature. In hindsight, that was a false assumption," the email said.

"We apologize for not having more thoroughly considered clearing the placement of the mayor's signature on the AWC letter with the full Council,

not to mention the mayor himself. The decision to add the mayor's signature was made too hastily in the face of the narrow time frame to respond that AWC provided," O'Rourke said.

Cawley said he wants the city to develop a process for signature authorization so that a similar mistake doesn't happen again.

"I'm pretty good about signing my name on things that are somewhat controversial," Cawley said.

● Information from The Seattle Times was included in this report.

RECEIVED

Feb 27, 2014

FEB 27 2014

To the County Commissioners:

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____
KITITAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thank you for giving the community time to comment on marijuana production in this county (and city).

This is a terrible idea. It may seem innocent (a source of revenue) but we should have nothing to do with this sale and availability. Why wasn't it a county vote rather than a state vote? Our city council is also going in the wrong direction.

All this can lead to ~~and~~ ^{are} horrible, negative effects. One drug leads to another; the quality of life of teens and young adults slowly declines as it affects their ability to think. It's so tragic for teens because their lives should be filled with promise.

Marijuana availability runs counter to all previous teaching - it's a negative. Just think about more impeded drivers on the road. Terrible idea.

Rita Young