

February 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

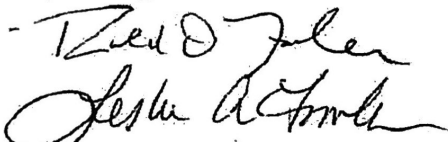
My name is Leslie Fowler. My husband and I live in Lutherville-Timonium and we are hardworking citizens, both working from our home office, parents of three and grandparents of two that live close by and visit us many times a week. We have lived in our home which we built with our own hands and hard work, since 1985. Our home abuts the industrial hemp field property located on Broadway Road, across the entire back of our two-acre yard. In fact, we've seen this farm go from a horse farm to a tree farm and now to an industrial hemp farm and we do not like this hemp "experimentation" happening in our back yard. We also do not believe we should have to pay such high property taxes and still have to deal with a horrendous smell throughout the year. We've had many guests arrive and ask where's the skunk. We've been told that the smell only lasts for three or four months but I can verify that so far it has not gone away. It has lessened some since the harvest, however, just the other day I was outside and could smell it yet again. (I can only assume that I'm currently smelling part of the drying process which happens in the large pole barn structure erected to sustain the new farming process.) Even worse than the smell, however, I have also developed some extremely annoying allergies that I never had before. This includes nasal problems, a cough that won't go away because of the nasal problems, breathing problems due to the cough, and eye irritations. During the summer months we spend a lot of time outdoors and most of the time our windows are opened to enjoy fresh air. One day in August, my grandson and I were on our pool deck when the hemp farm started spraying the crops. The workers were dressed in full body coverings with masks. Very soon after, both my grandson and I started with our eyes burning and extreme itching of our skin. We had to go inside and shut the house up. THIS SCARES ME and I'm sure you wouldn't like it either. In fact, we believe we have a right to know exactly what is being sprayed and when.

We are not against farming and agriculture. If we were then we would not have built our house abutting a horse farm! We believe they are both essential to our state, however, we are very much against this growth of hemp or any other such controversial crop in or near our back yard. We also do not believe, as citizens of Baltimore County and Maryland, that anyone should have to deal with the obnoxious odor and/or medical repercussions mentioned above. We find it hard to believe this great state would allow experimentation with such a crop in a very populated residential area.

We believe we need strict laws to restrict the farming of hemp (or any other experimental crop) within a two-mile radius of residential homes. No one should have to experience what our family has had to endure this past year.

I so wish I could attend the hearing on February 25th however, due to a work conflict I will not be able to be there. I pray this letter stands in our place.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Fowler
12 Broadridge Lane
Lutherville, MD 21093