

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice-Chair and Committee Members Environment & Transportation Committee
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-Chair and Committee Members Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
11 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB510/SB964 and HB574. The legislation was prompted by complaints from neighbors of a particular hemp farm in Baltimore County.

I support hemp farming and this legislation will retard progress we as a society have worked so hard for. Some of these farms are decades old and have been revived because of industrial hemp legalization. Agricultural development zones come with smells, sounds and sights associated with farming. I feel strongly that farms must continue to be protected by nuisance complaints under the state's right to farm laws and the Hemp Research Pilot Program.

This bill was introduced because of the surrounding towns people of one farm but this legislation will affect every hemp farm in the state. This farmer is being unduly targeted by a minority of the neighbors, who claim negative health effects and nuisance smells along with devalued property values. Smells are at times noticeable however the complaints are minimal and there is no evidence impacts our home values or caused any ill health effects. I believe the scents emanating from the plant have therapeutic benefits. Scents coming from the hemp plant are derived from terpenes naturally grown in the plant and terpenes are in every plant, providing scent, medical benefits and taste. Myself and everyone I know loves the smell and it makes us instantly feel good.

I support the owners of the farm that is being targeted by a small subset of neighbors and firmly believe they and every other hemp farm should retain their ability to farm without interference because of the aforementioned listed complaints.

Please do not support these bills. If you feel there needs to be a solution, please recommend that this be handled by local zoning ordinance where it can be addressed as the need arises.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hall

Name

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature

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3/10/2020

Date

Address