

February 20, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB964/HB510/HB574

Agriculture - Hemp Research and Production - Prohibitions

My name is Mitchell Whiteman. My family and I live at 17 Sugarvale Way, Lutherville. I would like to share my experience:

My wife, Whitney, and I are active community volunteers and the parents of two young children. We have lived on Sugarvale Way and in the Lutherville-Timonium area since 2010. When we moved to Sugarvale Way, our neighborhood was incredibly pleasant and our neighbors were supportive and courteous. Along with our two small children, we loved playing outside and enjoying the clean county air.

During the summer of 2019, we started smelling an intense disgusting stench by our house and when driving around our area. Guests to our home were struck by the awful smell when visiting and driving nearby. The phenomenon occurred from approximately August to October.

As it turns out, the odor originated from the newly formed hemp farm directly behind our house and our children's swing set, where they frequently play. The hemp plants are less than fifty yards from our house and our children's swing set / play area. (Please see attached picture.)

After research and consultation with doctors, our concerns were elevated beyond the vile smell. We have material concerns related to the health and development of our young children in the context of the hemp, as well as our own adult health – exacerbated by our incredibly close proximity.

As public officials focused on the health of children and sworn to protect us, thank you in advance for ensuring that the children of our area are safe and well. We are confident that you will reaffirm your primary responsibilities for public safety, public health, and the health of children.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB964/HB510/HB574

Thank you for your support and advocacy on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Whiteman

