

SB964 Hemp Bill

OPPOSE

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I successfully harvested 2 acres of CBD hemp in 2019. I am fortunate in that I have a field which will meet the restrictions within this bill. I am here today to share my experience with this chamber for use in your discussion whether or not to pass SB964

Why 2 miles, why not 10 miles or 1000 feet. Where did the drafter of this bill come up with 2 miles?

I will clarify some of the characters of hemp odor today. Let us focus on which cultivars and growth stages that carry the odor we are here to discuss.

Are all hemp plants created equal?

Here are a few questions that needs to be addressed when evaluating hemp odor:

- 1) How far does a specific hemp plant emit its odor?
- 2) At what distance does the odor end?
- 3) At what point in the hemp life cycle does the hemp plant carry a foul odor.
- 4) Will a small plot of 100 plants emit the same odor as a 20 acre field with 20,000 plants?
- 5) Does a farmer growing starter hemp plants produce the same odor as a farmer growing hemp for fiber, seed or CBD Biomass?
- 6) Will new Federal regulations reduce the odor from hemp plants?

These questions are very important to ask before assuming all hemp plants are created equal.

Allow me to give you examples of hemp crops that will not bother an adjacent homeowner.

This example will address questions 1,2,3,4, and 5

My ambition in growing hemp is to produce **hemp starters** for farmers to plant in the fields. I have over 10,000 hemp plants currently growing in one of my greenhouse facilities. These plants are what propagators call **stock plants**. They are 9 months old, most hemp plants live only for about 6 months. With my lifetime experience in the horticultural field I have developed the skills to manipulate the growth cycles of many plants. I have the ability to propagate enough plants for farmers to plant about 200 acres for the 2020 season.

My **Stock Hemp Plants** are grown in a greenhouse environment. The greenhouse offers the plants the environmental conditions necessary for healthy vigorous vegetative growth. During these conditions the plant can be asexually propagated. Otherwise known as "Cloning". The hemp plants at this stage of growth have very little odor.

The odor from these Clones and Stock Plants is only noticeable when a visitor stands in front of one of my exhaust fans on the greenhouse. When standing 100 feet away from the greenhouse a visitor would not know of their existence. These hemp plants will be removed from the greenhouse before they emit an odor crossing my property line. Unfortunately for me my greenhouses are very close to the 2 mile restriction stated in this bill. Will this committee require that I destroy my crop even though the faint odor from these vegetative hemp plants does not leave my own property? I welcome any or all of this committee and their constituents to visit my farm on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to see....or smell...for yourself.

Should this maturity of hemp be included in a 2 mile radius?

This example will address question 1, 2, 4 and 6

My field grown hemp contained 2,000 plants with 2 hemp varieties, Cherry Wine and Mountain Mango. The Cherry Wine matured about 10 days earlier than the Mountain Mango. The scent from both varieties offered fragrances associated with their names. The area within 300 – 1000 feet offered a notable scent during the maturing stage of growth. On week 6th of flowering (Mid August) the scent filled the air near my field, not yet moving over great lengths. The strongest scent developed on or about the 10th week of flowering (Mid September). With only 2 acres of hemp in my field the scent did not move beyond about 1,000 feet from the field. Most often the scent was strongest at my residence which is 300 feet down wind of the hemp field. A few hundred feet farther away behind my residence the smell dissolved into a wooded lot.

Should this small field of hemp be included in a 2 mile radius?

This example will address question 1 and 5

I am considering farming hemp for fiber and seed production in the future.

This type of hemp has a smaller less aromatic flower cola. The flower cola with less density and with a high seed content will not produce the numerous tricombs that emit the pungent odors often associated with CBD hemp varieties. The odor from this variety of hemp is less pungent and will not travel as far as the CBD cultivars.

Should this variety of hemp be included in a 2 mile radius?

This example will address questions 3, and 6

Maryland hemp growers have been informed that the Maryland Department of Agriculture will require all hemp grown in the state to meet the 2018 Farm Bill regulations. This adjustment will result in all varieties that are currently available to the farmers will have to be harvested before the flower colas mature. At week 5-6 of the hemp flowering season the hemp in the fields will need to be harvested. This is 4-6 weeks earlier than last year. Hemp plants harvested early will produce less odor. My hemp scents will not travel more than a couple hundred feet from the field. Please ask me how the 2018 Farm Bill effects the harvest time. The answer can be given in about 5 minutes of your time.

Should this hemp under new regulation be included in a 2 mile radius?

Conclusion

I'm not going to testify that CBD Hemp doesn't smell when in maturity, when the crop is in its maturity and you live close enough to a hemp field it is pungent. As I mentioned earlier my 2 acre field of hemp last year was 300 feet upwind from my home. My wife can't stand the smell and catches up on office duties during the smelly season just as she does when the dairy farmer next door spreads manure. I find the smell distinctive and curious. I'm not talking about the manure.

I become disoriented when the smell of a local lavender farm blows into my farm, this smell makes me drowsy and inattentive to my daily responsibilities. Many of my family and friends spent their summers in an air conditioned house because of tree pollen. Today you have heard about many of the odors that cross property lines. Our Agricultural Community depends on our "Right to Farm" in Maryland. This law protects us from homeowners that choose to move into our farming communities and close to our farms.

Please remember Maryland is "Open for business ". The number one industry in Maryland is Maryland Agriculture.

Your farmers are counting on you!!

