

February 20, 2020

We are Donald & Joyce Keener and our address is 14 Broadridge Lane, Lutherville, MD 21093. This is the dream home that we built 33 years ago and where we raised our 3 children. After working more than 40 years we finally decided to retire and enjoy our home and spend time with our 9 grandchildren. The youngest 6 grandchildren are ages 4 to 11, and spend a great deal of time with us in the summer.

Our home is approximately 400 feet East from the farm that grew industrial hemp in 2019, and there is only one house between the farm and our home. Since we sit at the top of the hill, and depending on shift of the wind, there are many days and weeks that the smell is so bad that it's impossible to enjoy outside activities. In addition, the smell also seeps into our home and vehicles.

We are very concerned about effects of inhaling the fumes emanating from the hemp plants on our health, our children and young grandchildren. Donald has suffered from irritated eyes, a respiratory infection that just wouldn't go away, and we both have had increased sinus issues.

Another major concern we have with the smell from the hemp plants is that it is the smell of POT. I, Joyce, worked 7 summers in Evidence/Property Room of a Police Department and know the smell well. We do not want our grandchildren exposed to the smell POT and connecting it with visiting their Grammy & Poppy. Drug abuse is a devastating disease and destroys families and lives. We have spent our entire adult lives making sure our children and now their children are raised knowing the dangers of drugs and hopefully by example, teaching them that we practice what we preach. This might seem a little far fetched to some, but children associate smells with people, places and things and the smell of POT is not something we want them to connect to us and our home.

We believe the laws to restrict where hemp farms are located are vital to the health and well-being of our entire family. We do not think it's too much to ask to be able to enjoy the home you have worked an entire lifetime to acquire. Over the 33 years we have lived here we feel we have been a good neighbor to the farm, and never once complained about anything they planted. We have no objection to hemp farming as long as it isn't surrounded by residential properties, affecting health, well-being, quality of life and property values.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Keener

Donald I. Keener, Sr.

