

February 19, 2020

To the Maryland State Legislature,

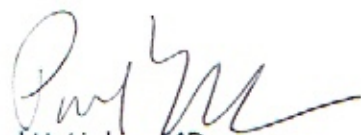
My name is Paul Lipkin. I live in Lutherville-Timonium and I am a pediatrician. My family has lived in Lutherville-Timonium for 24 years. Our house lies within 300 feet of a farm that grew industrial hemp as part of a pilot program in 2019.

The noxious odor that has been emitted from the hemp plants beginning in July and lasting through November has permeated our houses and clothing during this time. We have not been able to enjoy our homes in the temperate weather because the odor is so overwhelming and putrid. Despite keeping our windows and doors closed, the odor seeps into our homes and cars.

Many of my neighbors have complained about various symptoms they have experienced during the months when the plants are growing large and being harvested. We worry about the fumes from the terpenes that are causing the odor since there are no adequate studies that reassure us that they are not harmful to children, pregnant women and, even, adults.

I am not opposed to hemp farming. However, it seems that the pilot program that was passed for industrial hemp for the growing season of 2019 was done so without the knowledge of how it would impact the surrounding residences because of the unbearable odor emitted. I believe that restrictions should be made now that it is clear that there are quality of life issues surrounding its cultivation as well as possible unrecognized health issues. A moratorium on the further cultivation of hemp would be the proper course to take until these issues are better studied. A requirement for restriction of farming of hemp to a specific distance from residences would also be appropriate at this time. I support the bills before you today.

Sincerely,



Paul H. Lipkin, MD

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