

Hemp Bill statement

02/16/2020

My name is Geoff Ziskind, a married working father and grandfather. Our home is 100 yards from a Hemp farm's growing field.

We are writing to you about the Pilot Program Hemp farm at 1810 Broadway Rd 21093 and others that are operating in the state.

Our concerns are similar to our other good neighbors in the area. We live at **16 Sugarvale Way, Lutherville MD 21093**. During the month of September 2019, we had 15 family members and their children to our home for dinner. As each family arrived at our house each asked "What is that awful smell? "Do you have a dead skunk outside?" "The kids said. "your house stinks". It was a nice day and we wanted to spend some time out on our deck... But forget it! It did smell like skunk and no one wanted to spend any time outside that day.

We assumed that had a skunk spray its putrid odor somewhere near the house and that it would dissipate. When the vile odor did not go away in a few days, we considered calling animal control, but then found out that the awful smell was due to the Hemp Farm at 1810 Broadway. This odor then continued for 3 additional months.

Please understand, we do not object to the growing of Hemp, but we are appalled that the County, and State would allow this NEW Hemp farming to be allowed in the midst of a residential area.

Our family's concerns are simple:

1. Why does the Local/State Hemp program protect the farmers, while completely disregarding the harmful effect on the surrounding resident's health and enjoyment of their property?
2. No consideration of rights has been given to the 450+ property owners (2000+ people) that live within a 3/4-mile radius of the Pilot Hemp Farm at 1810 Broadway as well as those folks in a 2-mile radius
3. No consideration has been given to the surrounding property owners that will now have difficulty with property values and our ability to eventually sell our homes at a proper market price.
4. This Pilot Hemp program was allowed without well publicized public hearings with air quality warnings to the residents.
5. Other cities have put Moratoriums on hemp farms until they do more studies on what the long term effects that the odor can have on surrounding residents.
6. How can this Hemp growing activity continue when children won't play outside and folks complain of headaches and nausea due to the constant smell?
7. The folks at the Broadway Hemp farm have coexisted with their neighbors for the 30+ years that my family has lived on Sugarvale by growing non-offensive crops or plantings, but now their Hemp crop is destroying our enjoyment of the outdoors in the fall season.

This Hemp growing MUST cease in 2020 and beyond in residential areas. Hemp farming must not be allowed within a 2-mile radius of any established neighborhoods.

If you do not live in the area of a hemp farm and do not have to put up with the vulgar odor that lasts 3+ months in the fall, you may brush this off as a non-issue.

Respectfully...DO NOT disregard the problems that this Hemp Farm has caused my family and the surrounding tax paying neighborhoods of 450+ homes.

We need you to support the banning of Hemp crops growing within a 2-mile radius of residential areas!



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