

FAV HB 510 HB 574

Two-Minute Oral Testimony Script, Elizabeth Forbush

My name is Elizabeth Forbush. I truly hope you have the opportunity to read our written testimonies, including my personal story, those of my neighbors and the remarkably similar stories from people all over America who have had to endure the nightmare of living next to a hemp field.

We're here because we've already experienced the shock, inconceivable stench, and health concerns our panel will describe. Our stories could become yours and those of Marylanders anywhere unless we adopt new laws like the bills you have before you.

Please be clear though on what concerns us most -- Hemp fields stink like dead skunks, and our quality of life has been upended because we live close to where it was grown last year. But our primary concern is the health of our own families and the health of all Maryland families.

Please take a look at how many of us have been affected by just one hemp field that grew only 5 acres on a 33-acre farm: as you can see from these aerial and zoning maps, there were hundreds of families affected just within the inner bullseye of a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius of this one farm -- there are hundreds more within a 2-mile radius.

Another 10-acre farm is located within the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius shown, which did not grow hemp last year. But unless the law is changed, that farm could switch to hemp growing, just as any farm in any neighborhood in Maryland could.

The MDA licensed 73 hemp farm locations last year in almost every Maryland county, and we could see a five-fold increase this year.

There is no need to risk hemp growing near residences. Maryland has nearly 18,000 farms and about 1.5 million acres of farmland, so even with five-fold growth, hemp agriculture would still be a tiny fraction of that total.

There's plenty of farmland in Maryland away from homes, and away from families put at risk for health conditions our other speakers will describe -- there's enough to plant as much hemp as Maryland CBD consumers could possibly need.

Susan Gallerizzo
Michael Gallerizzo, Esquire
11706 Clairmoor Rd., Lutherville, MD 21093

FAV

HB 510, HB 574
SB 964
SUPPORT

HB 510
HB 574

My name is Susan Gallerizzo. My family and I residents at 11706 Clairmoor Road, Lutherville, MD, 21093. My home is about 1/2 mile from the farm at 1810 Broadway Road. I am a housewife and I watch my 2 year old niece one day a week.

I have asthma and have had several asthma attacks from the end of August to the end of October. One was so severe that I had to go to patient first for treatment and steroids. I had to hold my breath to go to my car. Not only did it affect my asthma, I had headaches and nausea.

I could not go outside and water my plants and had to let my flowers die. I could not take a walk or enjoy my yard.

I strongly believe that something needs to be done. I am not against hemp farms but they should not be by residential areas.

Susan Gallerizzo
Michael Gallerizzo, Esquire

February 19, 2020

FAV
HB 510 HB 574

To the Maryland State Legislature,

My name is Nancy J. Gordon. I live in Lutherville-Timonium and I am a retired physician. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy J. Gordon', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Nancy J. Gordon, MD

28 Barthel Court

Lutherville, MD 21093

FAV
HB 510 HB 574

Dear Senator Hettleman and all members of the MD Senate and House,

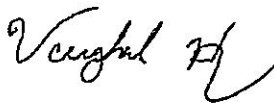
My name is Vaughan (Scott) Henry and I am a resident and homeowner of 3 Dipping Pond Ct in Lutherville-Timonium MD, 21093. My wife and I have owned the home for 2 and a half years now. We reside directly across the street (Broadway) from a pilot hemp farm.

I would like to state that I am in no way against hemp farming or hemp products – they may offer a wide range of benefits. I am against allowing hemp to be farmed in close proximity to residential areas. There are a number of concerns I and other neighbors have:

1. The health effects of being extensively exposed to intense hemp odor in the air is unknown....many states are passing regulations to be on the safe side and avoid exposing residential neighborhoods to the potentially noxious fumes. The fumes are 24/7 over many months encompassing growing and harvesting/drying. Many of our friends and neighbors have experienced issues from irritations to coughing/breathing issues and increased headaches. In our family we noticed eye irritations and coughing/wheezing in our dog coincident with the beginning of the fumes in the neighborhood. Why take a chance when so much is still not known/studied regarding the potential effects of exposure????
2. The odor is completely overwhelming and very pungent/rank. My wife originally thought it was odor from fox urine or the result of a dead deer in the vacant woods adjacent to our backyard. I met a couple I did not know at a restaurant, and when I told them where I lived they asked what the smell was as they drove Broadway daily to take their grandson to a camp. They thought it was a dead skunk but realized it was there every day, week after week, so it was not that. I told them it was the hemp..... It permeates everything 24/7, and honestly prevents us from enjoying the outdoors in our own backyard. We invested 250,000 dollars in a beautiful pool, hardscaping and porch to enjoy our home and last year our plans to enjoy all that were 100% ruined. It is simply horrible and frankly if the hemp farm stays we will need to go.

Please support the move to keep hemp farms away from residential areas. The odor is repulsive, the potential health effects are unknown and we who live in the area are in need of relief from this. Please help....

Sincerely
Vaughan Scott Henry



Richard Hirsch

FAV

Hello

HB 510 HB 574

My name is Peggy Hirsch. My husband Jim and I live at 5 Prospect St. We bought our house in 1985, and have lived here and raised our 5 children in that house. Over the last couple years, we have put an extensive amount of money into our house, including resurfacing and tiling our pool, building a new patio with fire pit, and landscaping our yard. We have always enjoyed our outside property, which is why we have stayed here.

A couple of our children live in the area, and visit on weekends with our grandchildren to enjoy the pool.

Our property abuts the farm on Broadway Rd. This past summer, and fall, the odor from the farm was unbearable. We are not able to enjoy our property, and are reluctant to have the young grandchildren outside due to the odor. While the farm is a pilot program, I am very upset that we are being subjected to this odor when no one knows the long term health effects, particularly the nervous system, offensive odor that prevents us from enjoying our yard, and prevents us from even opening windows.

I have nothing against hemp farming. I just think it should not be allowed in a residential setting when it affects the quality of life for those around it. It is imperative that a law be passed that restricts hemp farming in a residential setting.

Sincerely,

Peggy Hirsch

Peggy Hirsch

FAV
HB 510 HB 574

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

28 Barthel Court

Lutherville, MD 21093

FAV
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB964/HB510/HB574
Agriculture - Hemp Research and Production - Prohibitions

My name is Jody Maier Troy and I live 22 Sugarvale Way in Lutherville, Maryland. I have lived at that address for more than 20 years with my husband, three sons, and numerous pets.

I am writing in support of SB964/HB510/HB574. My home is very close to the Hemp Farm off of Broadway Road. During the Fall of this past year, I began smelling what I thought was someone using marijuana in or around my home. I was having a bathroom remodeled at the time and was concerned that the individuals doing the work might be under the influence. I said nothing (thank heavens) because within 24 hours I learned that the smell was actually from the hemp farm so close by. The smell intensified based on the winds and I presume whatever was going on at the farm to process the hemp. The smell was overpowering and remarkably unpleasant.

The harvesting season coincided with our celebration of the Jewish holiday of Succos where we build temporary outdoor structures in which we eat for about a week. We typically host guests in our "sukkah" but chose not to do so because of the terrible smell in the neighborhood. Just going outside during the harvesting season was particularly unpleasant because of the terrible smell. The smell permeated into our house.

I have learned that studies have raised concerns about the health issues hemp may pose to nearby residents. In fact, other communities faced with this issue have completely banned hemp farming in their communities. Remarkably, Ventura County in California, presumably a very liberal, progressive county, has banned hemp farming.

We are asking for a reasonable restriction to ensure the health and safety of our community and to ensure we can rightfully and peacefully enjoy our property.

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

FAV HB 510 HB 574

My name is Paul Solovovskiy. I live in Belarus and I am a father with three young children.

My family has lived in Lithuania for 20 years. Our house is 200 square meters, a farm that built in 1919 and I am impacted by this issue.

One of many of our neighbors, my family was impacted from 1992 that we believe that we are in the middle of a housing crisis in the nearby farm field was similar. Even though I have been a resident from the property, the house is not in the best condition. I am also impacted from my daughter is a student at Belarus State University and she is impacted from the fact that she is not in the best condition. I am also impacted from the fact that she is not in the best condition.

My mother is also impacted from the fact that she is not in the best condition. I am also impacted from the fact that she is not in the best condition. I am also impacted from the fact that she is not in the best condition. I am also impacted from the fact that she is not in the best condition.

I believe that the issue is not only a housing crisis but also a social issue. I believe that the issue is not only a housing crisis but also a social issue. I believe that the issue is not only a housing crisis but also a social issue. I believe that the issue is not only a housing crisis but also a social issue.

Thank you

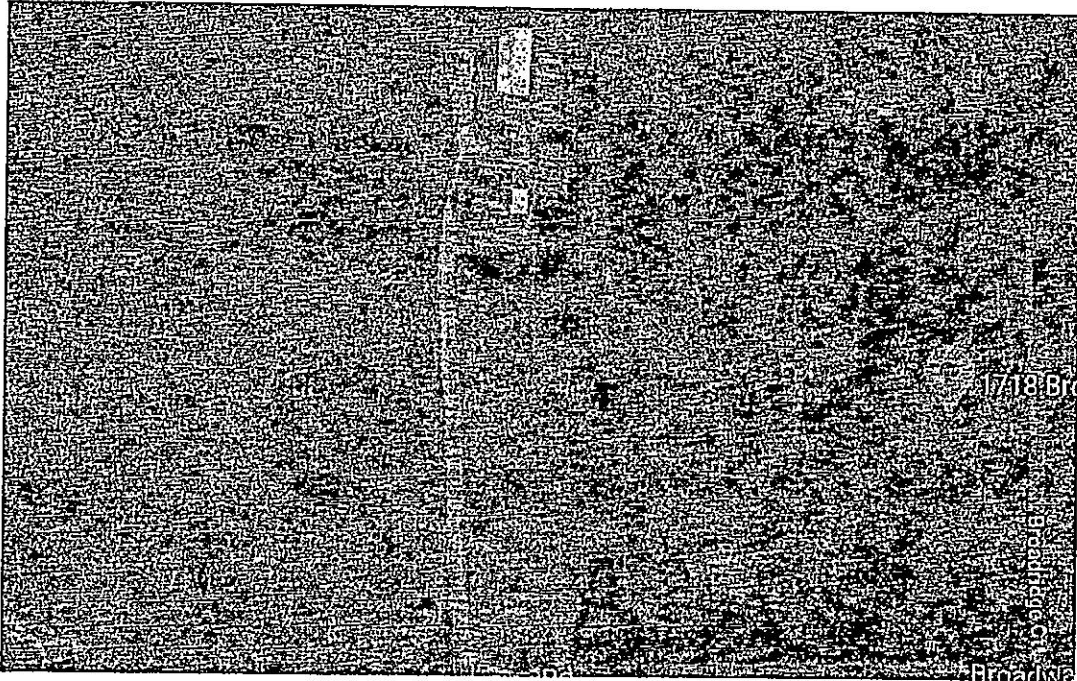
Paul Solovovskiy

100-2111

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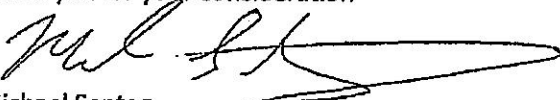
FAV HB 510 HB 574

- My name is Michael Sontag I live in Lutherville-Timonium at 1718 Broadway rd. and I am recovering drug addict with 18 years of clean time.
- My family has lived in Lutherville-Timonium for 3 years. Our house lies within 1000 feet away from a farm that grew industrial hemp in 2019.



- Like so many of my neighbors, my family experienced health issues last year that we believe may have been the result of breathing whatever the nearby hemp field was emitting. These included headaches, migraines, and worse of all cravings to use drugs. The smell permeates throughout my house during the growing season and continued to linger while the hemp was drying.
- I believe these laws are essential because no one should have to experience what my family was forced to endure last year. I will be forced to move if the growing continues as I will not let it trigger a relapse.

Thank you for your consideration


Michael Sontag

1718 Browadway rd

Luterhville Timonium MD 21093

FAV HB 510 HB 574

This is Michele and Steven Pearlman of 23 Sugarvale Way, Lutherville, MD 21093.

- My family has lived in Lutherville-Timonium for over 30 years. Our property directly abuts a farm that grew industrial hemp under the MD Hemp Pilot program in 2019. The farm that abuts our property that grew the hemp in the pilot program last year, was a tree and plant nursery up until the hemp planting.
- During 2019's last pilot hemp growing, my husband and I experienced health issues we have never had before in over thirty years, like many of our neighbors.

Once the stench began, I began having headaches and increased symptoms in my post nasal drip. I have never suffered from Headaches before. I am currently under an allergist's care for the post nasal drip and take several medicines to help me. My husband noticed his eyes were very irritated and had to use drops to ease the irritability. We never open our windows and doors, yet we could not get away from the odor and increased irritability. The unknown emittance that goes along with the odor from the terpenes were in our house, our clothes, our cars...we couldn't get out from under it.

Very sadly, my grown and married children have decided it is not safe for them and their children, my grandchildren, to visit during the pilot hemp growing season from July to November. They have made this decision because of the unknown effects of terpenes emitted from the growing hemp and their foul odor that could have irreparable damage to them. I'm not happy about this but I must wholeheartedly support their decision. The following speakers will give you documented evidence of the dangers of inhaling what these terpenes emit.

The passage of these bills is imperative to the health and wellbeing of all the neighbors that have suffered these and many other medical issues just because they live near a farm growing hemp under the MD Hemp pilot program. Additionally, these bills will also protect many of your constituents in the future before they have to suffer these medical issues as more farms decide to grow hemp.

Sincerely Yours



Michele Pearlman



Steven Pearlman

Date

2/18/20

FAV HB 510
HB 574

Dear Delegates and Senators-

I want to supply my formal request for some commonsense regulation to be put in place regarding the growing hemp production business in the state of Maryland. There needs to be regulations put in place to protect the residents who live in the agricultural areas where hemp is being grown.

First, my wife and I are NOT against the growing of hemp or medical marijuana for that matter. This is a great move forward for the state of Maryland and long overdue. However, there needs to be some parameters around how closely hemp and potentially cannabis is grown to residential neighborhoods. We realize 2 miles is a lot to ask but there must be some way to find a realistic distance as to allow the hemp industry to continue to expand but also protect the rights of homeowners in the state. Especially in heavily populated residential areas that are zoned for a combination of agriculture and residential.

In our neighborhood we have fallen victim to several months of the horrid odor 24 hours a day seven days a week that the growing hemp product produces. It has infiltrated our homes, our cars, our clothes and made being outside unbearable during the most pleasurable months of the year (June-October).

However, this goes far beyond being a nuisance. This is a health concern for the residents, especially those with young children. There are medical studies about the effects of hemp and its impact on growing lungs and the elderly. We have twin boys who are only 8 years old and while both were born premature, one has sensitive lungs due to his premature birth and we are terrified the lasting impact this may be having on both of their lungs.

This program was a pilot program for a reason. In the end we do not know much about this plant. This is not the same hemp that was once legal many years ago. This is technologically advanced and even those workers treating the plants are required to wear protective clothing. There are numerous medical studies for and against the effects of inhaling the crop of hemp and/or cannabis. We do not want our eight-year-old twins to be a statistic a decade down the line when we realize that inhaling this pollution has long term ramifications. By not placing parameters around the growing product we are forced to either move and uproot our family or just hope for the best. How can you expect a parent to live like that?

We realize that in certain areas of Maryland you, as a homeowner, agree to live in an agricultural zone and agree to deal with the annoyance that some agricultural products present. However, that was before hemp was a legal agricultural product. Farmers want protection to grow whatever they want but at the same time they want the right to sell their land to builders, which is how my neighborhood originated.

You will hear today from several representatives from our area about the health concerns regarding the product. This should be enough to warrant a required proximity between homes and the product. We are not asking for the hemp program to be eliminated. Maryland is full of agricultural land that does not border homes or densely populated areas. There is no need for it to be placed in the middle of several neighborhoods. We fear that if you do not act now there is the potential that any farm can be leased to grow hemp. In our area you could theoretically be boxing in many neighborhoods with hemp producers.

In conclusion, we beg you to consider placing some regulation in order to protect this growing industry but also the citizens who pay to live here.

Dale Foard
12 Dipping Pond Court
Lutherville, MD 21093

FAV
HB 510
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James E. Risser
11802 Berans Road
Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

February 17, 2020

Maryland State Senator Hettleman
Maryland State Delegates Stein and Cardin

Dear Senator Hettleman and Delegates Stein and Cardin,

I am writing in support of HB 510, which would place restrictions on licensing hemp research and production facilities within close proximity to residential communities.

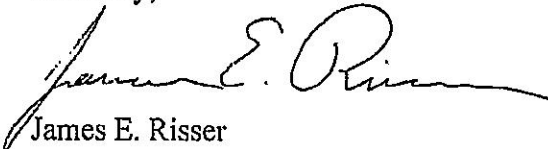
Like my neighbors, I am annoyed by the pervasive and strong odor emanating from the nearby hemp farm that began operation in 2019. However, I am much more concerned about the public health hazard posed by this farm. As is well-documented, and as I'm sure you're aware, hemp plants naturally emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that react with oxides of nitrogen in the presence of sunlight to produce harmful ground-level ozone. Thus, the VOCs that produce the stench in our neighborhood also threaten our children and anyone with even mild respiratory problems.

Having worked for nearly two decades in the field of protection against chemical and biological weapons, I am an expert in the airborne transport of chemical vapors and particulates, as well as the associated risks to human health. Without a detailed study, I question whether the 2-mile restriction in HB 510 is sufficient. However, it is much better than nothing. I would encourage you not to let this get watered down to some shorter distance.

I would also ask that you not permit an exception allowing indoor production with a VOC removal apparatus inside of the 2-mile restriction. Carbon filtration is expensive to install and even more expensive to maintain. While such a removal system can be expected to be effective when first installed, filters must be replaced regularly if the system is to continue to be effective. This is particularly true in the humid summer months when the carbon adsorbs moisture from the air, reducing its effectiveness at the very time that the VOCs are at their most dangerous. Any type of program that allows these systems should include provisions for regular inspections to make sure that the systems are maintained and functioning properly.

In closing, I want to thank you for taking up this fight for us to balance the needs of the agricultural economy with our right for a healthy and happy community.

Sincerely,



James E. Risser

FAV HB 510 - HB 574

- My name is Pamela L. Peterson. I live in Lutherville-Timonium and I am a retired mother of four and grandmother of two.
- My family has lived in Lutherville-Timonium for twenty-two years. Our house lies just over ¼ of a mile from the offensive hemp field in my neighborhood. For the longest time I thought we had an infestation of skunks under my deck. Until learning that a Hemp Farm was just down the street producing the offensive smells. The awful smells coming into my home into our cars on our clothes began just when we started opening our windows when the weather allowed. We've recently added a screened in back room onto our home enjoying relaxing outdoors, eating ,entertaining and watching our granddaughters play with abandonment. Our quality of life has been altered with this hemp farm. We no longer get to enjoy our peaceful backyard setting.
- Like so many of my neighbors, my family experienced health issues last year that we believe may have been the result of breathing whatever the nearby hemp field was emitting. These included constant runny nose sore throat and a general feeling of not being myself.
- I believe these laws are essential because no one should have to experience what my family was forced to endure last year. I am not against hemp farming, but the public needs to be protected and made aware of the health risks and reduced quality of life living near hemp fields.
- Thank You For Hearing and Addressing these issues today.



Pamela L. Peterson

FAV HB 510
HB 574

- My name is Ira Papel. I live in Lutherville-Timonium at 18 Barthel Court with my wife, Leslie. and I am a physician who has been distinctly bothered by the stench which transformed our neighborhood this past fall.
- My family has lived in Lutherville-Timonium for 31 years. Our house lies within a few hundred yards from the hemp field in my neighborhood.
- Like so many of my neighbors, my family experienced health issues last year that we believe may have been the result of breathing whatever the nearby hemp field was emitting. These included breathing problems, cough, sore throat, and nasal congestion. We can't leave the windows open as this makes it difficult to sleep.
- I believe we need to have some sensible limits on the placement of new hemp farms so that the comfort and value of pre-existing neighborhoods is not destroyed by the unanticipated effects of these farms. I have nothing against hemp farming as an industry, but a new hemp farm should not have the right to cause such harm to neighbors who have invested in their homes and lives.
- We are sorry we cannot attend the meeting today but appreciate the public officials and our neighbors who are speaking for us at the meetings. Our homes and neighborhood were present long before the hemp farming started, and therefore should have the right to preserve the quality of life we have long invested in. The hemp farm devalues this quality of life, and certainly the value of our homes.

Ira and Leslie Papel

18 Barthel Court

Lutherville, Maryland 21093

February 17, 2020

FAV
HB 510 HB 574

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jefferson Lee, and I am a parent of three young children. I am also a physician. We have lived in Lutherville-Timonium since 2015. When we moved here, the neighborhood was lovely. Our children loved playing in the green spaces and fresh air.

In the summer of 2019, we noticed a strong, nauseating odor that permeated our residential neighborhood. Both my wife and I developed recurring headaches and bouts of nausea. The presence of this odor persisted from August until October. We discovered that the odor was coming from a commercial cannabis ("hemp") farm located several hundred feet from our home. We later learned that the cannabis plants from this commercial farm were releasing chemicals called terpenes into the air.

The headaches and nausea from the cannabis terpenes were just the start of our worries. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) specifically warns pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to avoid exposure to chemicals from cannabis plants. We now faced the real health concern that our young children – with developing brains, lungs, and other organs – will be inhaling cannabis terpenes every day, for months on end, year after year.

There is zero research demonstrating the safety of cannabis terpene exposure on our children. Sadly, the absence of research fails to constitute safety – history is littered with cases where seemingly innocuous chemicals were later found to be hazardous or even deadly. Thalidomide, for instance, was hailed as a "miracle drug" to treat vomiting in pregnant women; only years later did scientists realize that thalidomide was causing tragic birth defects in children.

Therefore, we are horrified by the prospect of our young children becoming "guinea pigs" for a cannabis terpene experiment. Our concern is reasonable, as the FDA has already sounded the alarm for exposure to cannabis-derived chemicals in vulnerable populations. Our home should be a safe haven for our family, not a research lab to study the health effects of daily terpene exposure in growing children.

We wholeheartedly support laws to protect our families, especially our young children, from the health risks of terpenes released by nearby cannabis farms. Commercial cannabis agriculture must be forbidden in the vicinity of residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Jefferson Lee, M.D.

February 17, 2020

FAV

HB 510
HB 574

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Justin Sisserman. My family, which includes myself, my wife and our 6 year daughter live in the Lutherville-Timonium area on Dipping Pond Court. We have lived in the area since 2015.

I want to explain my stance on the nearby hemp farm issue. I have no issue with the growing of hemp or the hemp industry, however, based on this past year's experience, I feel it prudent to have hemp farming away from a residential area.

Like so many other neighbors in our area, we too were forced to deal with the horrid smell of the hemp growth on the Broadway road farm for a period of at least 3 months this summer. The smell, which is a by-product of the hemp farm, infiltrated our community, our roads, our houses, our garage, our clothes closets, our bedrooms and OUR LIVES.

I suffer from hay fever allergies, so we keep the windows closed through out the year. The problem is that not only did the smell engulf our house, but it got inside (through closed windows) causing a strong obnoxious odor, like an abundance of skunks in our house. It was almost unlivable.

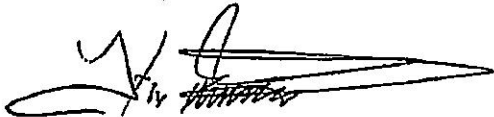
During the summer months, my daughter suffered through allergies that she did not previously have. I can not say for certain that the hemp was the reason for this, but I also can not rule this out. There simply has not been enough studies to let us know the harm or safety of close proximity hemp growing to a residential neighborhood and the current and future effect on our children.

As a father I have the sole responsibility to safe guard my child, but the state has allowed a pilot program farmer to grow hemp and this has taken away that ability from me.

I understand, that the farm in question was in existence before we moved to this area. From my knowledge it was a tree nursery until this past year. However, in the last year, hemp farming has become legal under the pilot program in Maryland, and I feel that our rights and safety has been violated by allowing this farm to grow hemp in close proximity to residential houses.

I am in agreement with the two-mile buffer between hemp farm and residence. All across the nation, outrage and concern has come from the unexpected side effect of hemp farming. We did not ask to participate in the hemp farming and yet we are victims of it's putrid smell and potentially dangerous medical side effects.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Sisserman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Sisserman

11 Dipping Pond Ct

Lutherville MD 21093



TURNBULL BROCKMEYER

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John Grason Turnbull III
jt@tblawmaryland.com
Adele Louise Brockmeyer
adele@tblawmaryland.com

February 14, 2020

Maryland General Assembly

FAV HB 510
HB 574

Dear Maryland Legislators:

I am writing in regards to the Hemp Farm on Broadway Road in LUTHERVILLE. I know you have received a lot of correspondence and input from the area. Our neighborhood, Braeside, is tremendously concerned. I would respectfully suggest that you inform the body drafting the regulations that I am not threatening, I am promising, litigation against both the owner of this parcel and the State of Maryland if this farm continues to grow hemp. It is totally inappropriate and is affecting my right to quiet enjoyment, it creates a nuisance, and is devaluing the area properties.

As you are well aware, this is not an agricultural area - but a residential area of the Lutherville/Falls Road Corridor. This area is full of wonderful homes and neighborhoods. The properties bring high prices and retain a high resale value. That value and these neighborhoods are being put in a precarious position due to the stench of marijuana from the farm at 1810 Broadway Road. When we have visitors, it has been embarrassing to explain why the entire area smells of marijuana. My daughter had a birthday party of 90 kids two weeks ago encompassing 12 private and public schools in the area. I stood in the circle as kids were picked up and dropped off and had to answer the same embarrassing question over and over of "what is that smell?"

The inside of my car is now taking on the odor and the inside of my house - even with the windows shut - now smells like marijuana. We wanted to keep the windows open this fall for fresh air, but are no longer able to do so due to the penetrating smell. This farm has created a nuisance in the practical and legal sense of the word. There is a strong argument that property values will and are suffering due to the smell.

Obviously, when this legislation was being considered, the smell and effect on the residential area was not taken into consideration. Hemp as a crop is a wonderful, environmentally friendly product, and I have nothing against the growing of the crop, but it must be done outside of a residential area.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

John Grason Turnbull III

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FAV
HB 510
HB 574

February 20, 2020


To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Kevin Sottak. I am a resident of Lutherville-Timonium, an employee of the St. Paul's Schools, and a husband father of three adult children. We purchased our house on Broadway Road in the spring of 2003 and have lived there for the past 17 years. Our property lies approximately one mile east of the local farm that grew industrial hemp farm in 2019.

While my family is fortunate that, thus far, we have not experienced the acute health effects that so many of my neighbors have, our quality of life of life has suffered, and I remain concerned about possible long-term health effects. At times last summer, the smell from the farm was sufficiently overpowering that, even a mile away, we kept all windows closed and avoided going outside other than when necessary. Additionally, during the school year we drive past the farm on a daily basis to take our daughter to and from school, increasing our exposure to both the smell and any potentially dangerous substances created by the hemp farm.

I am not against hemp farming, but I do believe that the public needs to be protected from known and unknown health risks of living near hemp fields. I encourage the General Assembly to take action to protect private citizens whose health and quality of life will be directly impaired by the establishment of an industrial hemp farm in our residential neighborhood.

Sincerely,



2/20/2020

Kevin Sottak

1500 Broadway Road, Lutherville, MD 20193

HB
FAV 510

HB
574

02-18-20

Dear Maryland State Senators and Representatives:

We are residents of Baltimore County, MD at 11708 Clairmoor Road, Lutherville Maryland 21093. Our home is located less than 1 mile from the 1810 Broadway Road hemp farm.

We investigated our property this summer for a suspected invasion of skunks due to a new malodorous outdoor air problem. The condition persisted throughout the summer and into the fall, and was especially strong in the evenings, until the hemp harvesting season ended.

Driving home on Woodland Road to Broadway Road, several miles from the farm, we were able to detect the odor of hemp each evening. We again thought that the odor was due to a skunk infestation, as the stench was overbearing. The condition cleared this winter as there is no hemp harvesting occurring during the winter season.

We are petitioning that the farming of hemp be located at least three to four miles from residential neighborhoods, as the air quality conditions are so poor that our families and our pets are not able to go outside for the summer and fall during the hemp growing and harvesting season.

We are forced to drive to another location to take an outdoor walk during the hemp farming months due to the poor air quality and awful odor in our neighborhood.

Please consider our pleas for protecting our health and our property values. We moved to Lutherville to enjoy good air quality and a healthy lifestyle. We implore you to please vote to locate hemp farms at least several miles from residential neighborhoods for health and safety reasons.

Regards,

Naresh Khanna, M.D.

Lynette Khanna, CRNP
11708 Clairmoor Road
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

February 17, 2020

FAV

HB 510
HB 574

To Whom It May Concern:

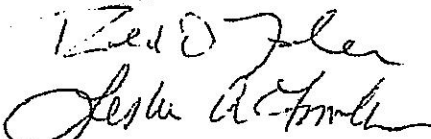
My name is Leslie Fowler. My husband and I live in Lutherville-Timonium and we are hardworking citizens, both working from our home office, parents of three and grandparents of two that live close by and visit us many times a week. We have lived in our home which we built with our own hands and hard work, since 1985. Our home abuts the industrial hemp field property located on Broadway Road, across the entire back of our two-acre yard. In fact, we've seen this farm go from a horse farm to a tree farm and now to an industrial hemp farm and we do not like this hemp "experimentation" happening in our back yard. We also do not believe we should have to pay such high property taxes and still have to deal with a horrendous smell throughout the year. We've had many guests arrive and ask where's the skunk. We've been told that the smell only lasts for three or four months but I can verify that so far it has not gone away. It has lessened some since the harvest, however, just the other day I was outside and could smell it yet again. (I can only assume that I'm currently smelling part of the drying process which happens in the large pole barn structure erected to sustain the new farming process.) Even worse than the smell, however, I have also developed some extremely annoying allergies that I never had before. This includes nasal problems, a cough that won't go away because of the nasal problems, breathing problems due to the cough, and eye irritations. During the summer months we spend a lot of time outdoors and most of the time our windows are opened to enjoy fresh air. One day in August, my grandson and I were on our pool deck when the hemp farm started spraying the crops. The workers were dressed in full body coverings with masks. Very soon after, both my grandson and I started with our eyes burning and extreme itching of our skin. We had to go inside and shut the house up. THIS SCARES ME and I'm sure you wouldn't like it either. In fact, we believe we have a right to know exactly what is being sprayed and when.

We are not against farming and agriculture. If we were then we would not have built our house abutting a horse farm! We believe they are both essential to our state, however, we are very much against this growth of hemp or any other such controversial crop in or near our back yard. We also do not believe, as citizens of Baltimore County and Maryland, that anyone should have to deal with the obnoxious odor and/or medical repercussions mentioned above. We find it hard to believe this great state would allow experimentation with such a crop in a very populated residential area.

We believe we need strict laws to restrict the farming of hemp (or any other experimental crop) within a two-mile radius of residential homes. No one should have to experience what our family has had to endure this past year.

I so wish I could attend the hearing on February 25th however, due to a work conflict I will not be able to be there. I pray this letter stands in our place.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Fowler
12 Broadridge Lane
Lutherville, MD 21093

February 17, 2020

FAVORABLE

HB 510
HB 574

To Whom It May Concern:

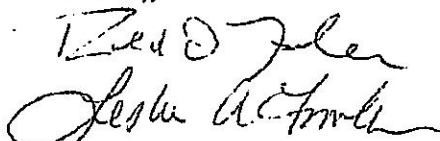
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I so wish I could attend the hearing on February 25th however, due to a work conflict I will not be able to be there. I pray this letter stands in our place.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Fowler
12 Broadridge Lane
Lutherville, MD 21093

HB 510
FAVORABLE HB 574

February 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

- My name is Greg Nivens. I live in Lutherville-Timonium and I am a small business owner, father and husband who has paid taxes in Maryland and created jobs in Maryland for the better part of 20 years.
- My family has lived in Baltimore County for over 20 years and Lutherville-Timonium for over 5 years. Our house lies within 300 yards from a farm that grew industrial hemp in 2019.
- Like so many of my neighbors, my family experienced health issues last year that we believe may have been the result of breathing whatever the nearby hemp field was emitting. These included breathing problems, cough, sore throat, nasal problems, allergic reactions, welts, eye irritations, itchiness, blood shot eyes, headaches, migraines, sleeplessness, nausea and general displeasure from the smell associated with the product.
- I don't think that we need to grow these products so close to residential properties. It is an unpleasant experience. I believe these laws are essential because no one should have to experience what my family was forced to endure last year. Please note – I highly support the modern agriculture business complex.....and I am not against hemp farming, but the public needs to be protected from health risks of living near hemp fields.

Sincerely,



FAVORABLE: HB574

FAV
HB 510
HB 574

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.

- My name is Deborah Schwartz. I am a married oncology living with my husband Eric Schwartz, an attorney, and our college-aged children.
- My family has lived in Lutherville-Timonium for 17 years. Our house lies about a half mile away from a farm that grew industrial hemp in 2019.
- Like so many of my neighbors, my family experienced health issues last year that we believe may have been the result of breathing the noxious fumes being emitted by the hemp farm. These included burning eyes, burning nasal membranes, coughing, sore throat, headaches and nausea. The burning eyes and nasal membranes were present even when we were within the confines of our home. These symptoms worsened and were accompanied by headaches, sore throat, coughing and nausea when we were outside, any place in our development.
- Due to the side effects mentioned above resulting from the noxious fumes being emitted from the hemp farm situated less than a half mile from my home, we were not able to enjoy the simple pleasures of walking the dogs, getting the mail or just trying to read on the front porch reading the paper. In short we were not able to enjoy the property that we worked hard to afford and for which we pay taxes. Before I was made aware that the fumes from the hemp farm were producing the side effects I was experiencing, I called Baltimore Gas and Electric to come check my property for a gas leak. Upon arrival to our property, the BGE rep immediately advised that he smelled "a marijuana-like odor" as soon as he entered our neighborhood which became stronger as he neared the homes which most closely abut the hemp farm. Clearly this example shows that the hemp farm's location so close to residential areas resulted in unnecessary usage of BG&E's time and man power
- I am not against hemp farming in general but believe strongly that it should not be permitted to occur close to residential areas. I believe strongly that a separation of hemp farms of at least 2 miles from residential areas is a fair and safe practice.

Deborah A Schwartz 2-19-20

FAV - HB 574
HB 510

Maryland State Senator Hettleman
Maryland State Delegates Stein and Cardin

FAV HB 510
HB 574

Prof. Nicole Dombrowski Risser, Ph.D.

James Risser

11802 Berans Road

Lutherville, MD 21093

410-440-4215

NDR
2/17/2020

February 17, 2020

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I write to support HB 510 (Stein and HB 574 (Cardin) to limit the growing area of noxious Hemp farming within residential areas. This October 2019 we became aware of a noxious odor as we drove West on Broadway Road half a mile from our home on Berans Road. I said to my husband, "OMG, someone has slaughtered a family of skunks." He just laughed and said, "It's terrible. Roll up your window."

When we returned in the late evening, about five hours later, we had the windows back down as it was a temperate evening. Again, the smell was more intense. The next day we smelled the same smell from our home, and I continued to believe there must be a massive skunk infestation in our neighborhood. For over a week, until the wind changed, we had to keep all windows and doors of the house closed. We had no idea what the smell was. We had never been notified that a HEMP farm was operating within our neighborhood.

I support farmers. I teach a course on Agricultural History at Towson University where I am a professor of history. One of the key themes in contemporary agriculture is healthy, sustainable organic farming. HEMP farming is neither healthy nor sustainable. Indeed, it is one of these weed crops that is bad for the soil, the air and the water supply. As someone writing and researching and teaching about the survival of the family farm, I can't think of a worse business model for the farmer's health, the health of the soil and ultimately the health of our state. When I moved to Maryland in 1999, the state was gearing up to spend millions of dollars to pay farmers to stop growing tobacco. I cannot believe that the state is now encouraging the growing and sale of hemp and its products. It's as though everything we know about growing weed crops has been thrown out the door.

I must testify that this smell is worse than if we lived next to a tanning factory. We work diligently to curb pollution in the city and to limit industries that pollute the air and water. Other neighbors know more about the ozone problems created by HEMP, but I want to stress the air pollution that is perceptible to the human smell. I really hope that our legislators do not bow to the hemp industry and allow this to go unregulated and spread through residential areas. Let's pay farmers to grow

healthy crops, not dirty crops. And when hemp must be cultivated, let's zone very specifically for its cultivation in areas that are at a distance from dense suburban residential or school populations.

I will only add that I know about the values of industrial HEMP. But in this case the destructive nature out-weighs the constructive uses. I would really appreciate some commonsense regulation applied to HEMP's growth and I hope this test serves as a very strong example of how seriously the state must exercise its judgement, fact-finding obligation and regulatory power to oversee the growth of Cannabis.

Thank you,



Nicole Dombrowski Risser

2/17/2020

FAV

HB 510

HB 574

February 17, 2020

Delegate Hettelman:

My name is Susan A. Schaffer. I live in Lutherville-Timonium and I am a mother, a grandmother, a working Occupational Therapist and a senior citizen.

My family has lived in Lutherville-Timonium for 24 years. Our house is situated within ¼ mile (as the crow flies) of a farm that grew industrial hemp in 2019.

For a period of about 4 months last year, during the summer and fall, my family experienced the unpleasantness of the foul odor emanating, round the clock, from the nearby hemp field. For several weeks we thought there were dead skunks in the neighborhood. We then learned it was a new hemp crop planted very close to our home. The disgustingly foul odor permeated our home almost continuously during that period of time. Any guests or our children who came to visit were disgusted by the odor on the road leading up to our home, in our house and in the bedrooms. We have a toddler granddaughter with respiratory issues and we are very concerned about the impact on her when she visits. We kept our windows closed and it still was apparent in our living rooms and bedrooms at all hours of the day and night. The odor negatively impacted our sleep.

We expect, at some point in the not too distant future, to sell our home as we face retirement, and we worry about the impact of this smell during approximately 1/3 of the year on property values. We would absolutely never consider purchasing a home in a neighborhood where this smell was so apparent upon visiting it with a realtor and learning that it is evident for 4 months of the year. This situation may be very new and there is no data to support a potential drop in property values, but common sense strongly suggests that if I (and my extended family and friends who weighed in) would not purchase a home with such an apparent environmental odor both external and internal to the home, others wouldn't either. And that is extremely worrisome with respect to the resultant anticipated drop in property value as I anticipate selling my house at some point in the next few years.

I support laws restricting hemp agriculture near residences. There are a number of communities in the USA who have already addressed this issue due to a variety of concerns and I believe there must be consideration of the positions not only of the farmers who are developing this newly approved crop, but also of the homeowners who are heavily invested in these neighborhoods.



Susan A. Schaffer

16 Barthel Court

Lutherville, MD. 21093

FAV ~~to~~ HB 510 HB 574

February 18, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Our names are Whitney and Mitchell Whiteman and we 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 supportively 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 stuck 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.

After general 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 – exacerbated by our incredibly close proximity.

As public officials focused on the health of children, thank you in advance for ensuring that the children of our neighborhood are safe and well. We are confident that you will reaffirm your primary priorities for public safety, public health, and the health of children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Whitney and Mitchell Whiteman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Whitney and Mitchell Whiteman