

SB 0158

Cannabis Licensing – Zoning Requirements – Alterations

I fully support SB0158 to allow the local political subdivision to properly address reasonable zoning requirements for cannabis businesses. The zoning regulation of these facilities is very important for political subdivisions to better serve their citizens. Let me tell you some concerns that I have and how I have been drastically affected by the cannabis business in my area, zoned Critical Area, Rural Preservation District.

These businesses need to be in industrial areas to handle the growing/processing needs, massive electrical service, the water needs, the noise levels, and the horrendous smell emitted by this business. It is a business and thus needs to be identified by the local political subdivision as such and how the location best fits in their community.

Currently I have been stripped of my joy of living in my home. The existence of a grow facility, with NO NOTICE, NO PUBLIC HEARING, and suddenly in the works with no way to STOP IT has ruined my life. I feel like the serenity that I enjoyed for the last 38 years has turned into a beehive, with additional 24 hours lighting, an 8-foot barbed wire fence surrounding a building of 52,000 square feet, and horrendous smells that choke your breathing, that seep into your home and your yard, making it unbearable to take a walk or bike ride in the neighborhood, sit outside or work in the yard, or take some time to fish, crab, take a boat ride. You just never know when it will smell, but it is daily. It can depend on the time of day, the direction of the wind blowing, the humidity, and other factors. I cannot even drive to my home without going by the facility and smelling the “skunk” and my windows are rolled up tight. I am now known to take a face mask with me to walk and many times I have to turn around and return to my home because of the stink. The smell does take my breath away and I feel I and NO ONE ELSE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND should have to live with this intrusion. My basic rights of living on my own property have been stripped away.

Allowing local political subdivision to establish reasonable zoning for their area is necessary to ensure that NO ONE ELSE is left with a community hating where they live, because life as they once enjoyed has been taken away due to inappropriate zoning. My opinion, these types of facilities should not be within 2 miles of residential areas OR the industry needs to find a way to curtail ALL smells emitted, reduce noise and lighting, and provide site mitigation with berms and landscaping. NOTHING should pass the property line of that facility.

Rose Ellen Guyther  
38530 Pleasant Habor Way, Abell MD 20606