

## Written Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 158

By: Senator Jack Bailey

Cannabis Licensing - Zoning Requirements – Alteration

Chair Senator Beidle and Senator Committee Members

My Name is Victoria M Brown and have lived in the 7<sup>th</sup> District for the last 14 years. I live approximately 1.3 miles from the existing Industrial Cannabis Facility, which is over 50,000 square feet, with over 119 parking spaces build on 75% of critical area. When this project started extraordinarily little was known about how this would affect the 7<sup>th</sup> District, only knowing that it was to be a small Grow House for Medical Cannabis. I have no issues with Cannabis whether Medical or Recreational, that is not the issue here. The issue is that the entire community in the 7<sup>th</sup> District has been disrupted from a beautiful and loving community to one of hatred and contempt between: Family Members, relatives, long lifetime friendships, as well as our church community. The history of the 7<sup>th</sup> district is long and solid. We in the 7<sup>th</sup> district come together to help one another in most all aspects of community,

The disruption in our community is many; our school children who walk past this facility to get on and off buses, they are exposed to the smell, noise and view from their homes that looks like a Penitentiary/jail, loud noise, and an extreme smell (like Skunk) every day. This environment that these children live in daily does not need to be expanded to further impact their likelihood. Many friends don't even talk to one another, as well as family members/relatives any longer over the changes in our community. So many of our homeowners who have investigated selling their homes to get away from this industrial facility can't even find buyers for their homes and land property value has decreased (50%), but our taxes have not.

The 7<sup>th</sup> district has a large number of water front properties and retirement homes as it was a great place to come back to, however I will give you an example: Very close personal friend build a beautiful home, pier, and completed a living shore and have put well over 1.5 Million dollars into their retirement home. They value lost is over 50% and each day they get up to the smell of Cannabis odor of shrunk. They are friends and relatives of the 7<sup>th</sup> district that do not speak to each other as they once did at the Post office or at our local community store. The smell is now traveling over a mile away from the location now and with any additional explanation of addition facility growth will only increase the violent Odor and continue the decrease in values of our homes and properties.

Families that have live near this facility have even suffered more, with the extreme noise all night long, the odor is now in their homes, furniture, they can't even open their window to get fresh air from Canoe Creek on which many have lived on for several generations. Canoe Creek is now Silting over with sediment from runoff. I employ you to please vote in favor of Senate Bill 158, to exempt the use of Cannabis licensee from certain county and municipal requirements.

Our County Local Government made many mistakes and have failed us, most of whom have retired or been voted out. Please don't let the State of Maryland fail our community. The 7th District needs your help. Thank You