

From: [Kate Meltzer Levin](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Oregon Hemp Program Concerns
Date: Friday, November 15, 2019 12:23:23 PM

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I am a resident of Jackson County. I live in Ashland, outside of the city limits. I grew up in this area and moved back 9 years ago to raise my own family because of the excellent quality of life including the natural beauty, safety, wonderful outdoor adventuring opportunities and community of neighbors.

When we bought a home in Ashland 6 years ago we were surrounded by agriculture actives such as hay, cows and food crops. It was peaceful, beautiful and safe and we have enjoyed it very much up until 2 years ago.

Now, farm after farm is becoming hemp. Here are all of the negative impacts my family is experiencing:

1. **Large Increase in traffic and noise**- increase of equipment, supplies and workers coming and going
2. **Crime**- people steal the hemp; grower's routinely have people living on the edges of their properties in trailers/camping sites for "security"
3. **Water concerns**- this is a finite resource and as California wine country has demonstrated, surrounding properties can have wells go dry due to heavy watering needs of agricultural uses. Particularly concerning are those farms using wells to irrigate instead of or as supplements to their irrigation water rights.
4. **Health Concerns**- it smells very pungent for several months out of the year and causes members of my family respiratory irritation. I know neighbors who are becoming allergic to it and I'm concerned that over time this will become an increasing health concern.
5. **Waste**- acres of single use plastic and hemp waste, where does it all go?
6. **Industrialization of rural residential areas**- the largest hemp farm near us just got approved to get a processor to extract CBD oil. This is becoming an industrial use in an area that is not meant for that. In this particular case (Magu Maiden Farms, Ashland, Oregon) they will process 50% from what is grown on their 185 acre farm and then truck in the other 50%- a huge increase in traffic, waste, noise. This is not the right place. EFU land should not allow for this type of land use.
7. **Decline in Property value concerns**- no one wants live surrounded by hemp farms. One neighbor already has had the house, where they have lived for nearly 40 years, surrounded on 3 sides by a hemp farm (the 4th side being the road). Who would want to buy that property and live there? Myself and all of my neighbors who call this area

home are very fearful of this becoming our reality as well as this area is a mix of EFU and RR5 zoned properties.

The character of the whole area is changing for the worst due to the listed reasons above. **So many of the reasons I chose this area to live are dwindling as the hemp industry grows and overtakes this beautiful area that I have loved for the majority of my life.** While hemp may have benefits it should be zoned to be in its own area not mixed in where people live. Many big hemp farms are backed by out of state or out of country money and therefore does not positively impact our local economy as much as was originally touted.

Please consider some of these unintended consequences. Stricter zoning designations are needed here to preserve what we love about Jackson County and Oregon as a whole while allowing the growth of the hemp industry.

I LOVE where I live and I want to stay in a beautiful, safe, healthy environment. Please help protect it.

Sincerely,

Kate Levin
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