

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HB3239
ESTABLISHING WHERE MARIJUANA/HEMP CAN BE CHEMICALLY PROCESSED**

House Committee on General Government,

We strongly support HB3239 to require all chemical processing of marijuana and hemp to be **allowed only in industrial zones** and not within 2,000 feet of areas zoned for residential uses.

We live less than a mile from a chemical processing facility on Jaquith Road north of Newberg on Chehalem Mountain. We are in a limited groundwater area and the water supply is not adequate to provide help in an emergency, **especially if power is out and wells cannot pump**. The wildfire that blew across Chehalem Mountain this summer passed very close to the chemical processing facility. Had it reached the facility, the chemicals stored there would have resulted in a terrible disaster to many homes, property, and lives. The winds were so strong that aerial water drops could not occur for a couple days. Power was shut off so there was no water to soak our houses. It is to the credit of the fire & rescue that no homes were lost and just luck that the chemical processing facility was spared.

The Jaquith Road facility is on a narrow gravel road and is 300 feet from the nearest home. Highway 219 from Newberg on the south or Hillsboro on the north is a steep, narrow and winding state highway with several hairpin curves. A loaded water tanker struggles to make the grade to the top of the mountain, and our local fire and rescue struggles to respond in a timely manner to an emergency.

HB3239 will help protect the public health and safety. We support this agricultural industry, but strongly feel that the dangers of marijuana butane/ethanol chemical extraction processing belong in industrial zones with adequate infrastructure to address the issues of fire explosion risk, odor, traffic, crime, and healthy neighborhoods.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

David and Michal Wert
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