

I live on the north side of Chehalem Mountain, an area of trees, fields, orchards and vineyards. The roads are gravel and near impassable in winter because of potholes. We are on well water, and, we found out last fall, subject to wildfires. Despite all this, county planners have allowed a marijuana processing plant to be sited on Chehalem Mountain to the west of Highway 219. Such processing plants use vast amounts of water and can drain our water table, making our wells useless. Gravel roads make access difficult should there be fire and allow the fire to spread before fire fighters can reach it. Marijuana processing plants are also more likely to catch fire. These conditions raise the risk of fire in an area already prone to wildfires. I support HB 3239 because it would place marijuana processing plants in industrial areas where they would have ready access to water supplies and fire departments. They do not belong in rural areas where they could drain local water supplies and increase the risk of wildfire in areas already at risk for fire. Thank you.