

March 19, 2021

Committee on General Government

Dear Members:

I appreciate the time you are taking to hear my concerns about the chemical refining/processing of cannabis in agricultural/forestry areas. As a 30 year resident of Chehalem Mountain my home and forest land is slightly more than 1 mile from a proposed ethanol/butane cannabis processing facility on Jaquith Road. After the massive fire and the associated week long evacuation of Chehalem Mountain in 2020, I strongly support HB 3239 which would place statewide restrictions and regulations on such operations. As bad as our fire was this past year our wonderful firefighters were able to contain the conflagration before it reached my forested area or the city of Newberg. I don't even want to imagine what could have happened if we had had a facility on the mountain storing massive amounts of highly flammable and explosive chemicals. Such processing / refining operations are not appropriate for Agricultural / Forestry use only zoned areas where there is no abundant water source, other than domestic wells which are very limited in their yield. Such operations are, at best, designed to be in a light industrial zoned area where there is adequate water and nearby fire stations.

Sincerely yours,

Richard S. Baker