From:	Shelis Jorgensen
To:	Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored)
Cc:	Marijuana, CED ABC (CED sponsored)
Subject:	Objections to Marijuana business on Main Street in Talkeetna, Alaska
Date:	Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:37:48 PM

Dear Esteemed Marijuana Control Board Members,

I am writing to request the Board, if it is within your authority, abstain from granting or deny Jmdn Enterprises, LLC (The High Expedition) approval of its license as a retail marijuana shop to be located at 13465 E Main Street, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676.

I will say I am not completely opposed to legalization of marijuana, however, I do have concerns primarily related to the location of this business and its impact on this rural community.

As you may be aware, the research that other states have performed (https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/marijuana-health-report) have shown an increase in child poisonings, 911 calls, ER visits and hospital admissions. As a health care provider in this community for over 15 years, I have grave concerns that our current EMS and clinic resources are not prepared for this impact. By locating itself in the middle of town and marketing to a bustling summer tourism industry, I feel it is very likely that tourists who are naive to marijuana use and its effects will not be able to distinguish whether they are experiencing a drug effect or a more serious health concern. This will likely result in diverting our Ambulance to the care of these individuals, making them unavailable to assist people with serious and life threatening conditions. Without an Emergency Room available within an hours drive of our town and only having access to a health clinic from 9am to 5pm Monday through Saturday, I feel there will be casualties.

Additionally, the research about impact on the developing brain for exposure to marijuana in youth is clear. For that reason many states have limited marijuana retail stores from being located in close proximity to schools, public parks, etc. This business is located across the street from a public park/campground, is within a few hundred feet of our public ball field, scenic river access and within walking distance of our elementary school. Though I do understand that it is every parents responsibility to educate their children about what drugs can do to them, I also believe that not allowing easy access is also important. Whether we like it or not some people will not be responsible with this product and it will end up in the hands of our youth.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Shelis Jorgensen