1294

June 12, 2017

Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Board – Anchorage
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Board – Fairbanks
1648 Cushman Street, Suite 203, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Karl W. Kassel, Mayor
Fairbanks North Star Borough, Administrative Center
PO Box 71267, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

RE: Marijuana Retail Dispensary (Grass Station 49) 665 Rainbow Drive, Fairbanks

Dear Sirs:

My husband and I are submitting this letter to protest the approval of a marijuana retail dispensary in our neighborhood. It is a rural residential neighborhood adjacent to Chena Hot Springs Road which already has some issues which this will accelerate.

1. Since the improvements to Chena Hot Springs Road, traffic speed has increased to unsafe levels. Neighbors know how to navigate the ins and outs of the neighborhood intersection at Rainbow Drive, but we can truly say there will be increased accidents due to customers frequenting this commercial entity unfamiliar with the hazards of the road. Add in the proposed roundabout right there in the works, and it is going to be complete chaos.
2. This establishment is just yards from established bus stops from Weller, Tanana and Lathrop schools. Again, increased unfamiliar traffic poses a hazard to our youth.
3. Rainbow Drive is used by most of the neighbors to walk their dogs, walk or jog, bike or horseback ride. It is a regular route for many of us who live in the area who go to the corner and back. Increased traffic on this recreational route is not a good idea.
4. We don't want to be the neighborhood test case to see if this works. It is setting a bad precedent. This commercial venture would be better served in a strip mall or in the downtown area where sales, traffic, extended hours etc. are accepted and the norm.
5. Such a commercial entity will have to gear its hours and days to the product they are selling. Staying open late will be the norm and with increased people, we can guarantee there will be increased crime, traffic and people taking the back roads in and out from Steele Creek to get there.

We acknowledge that Mr. Evans has the right to sell marijuana but the location in our neighborhood, or any neighborhood for that matter is wrong and once it happens here, the likelihood of the impact on other quiet neighborhoods is forthcoming.

I urge you to not grant final approval for this venture and maintain the reason we all moved out of town, many of us over 25 years ago – to enjoy living in the woods and to not be surrounded by stores. If we want to buy something, we can easily drive to town and get it.

Sincerely,

Karen G. Lundquist
Willi A. Lundquist