OBJECTIONS

From:	Larry St. Amand
To:	Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored)
Subject:	A new Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license #10117
Date:	Thursday, May 19, 2016 4:15:48 PM

Dear Sirs,

I am opposed to this new Alaska Fireweed **Farm** located at mile 101Richardson Hwy. Pipeline Access Road in the Community of Copper Center!

What people do in their own HOMES, this is their business! I have always believed this. But, when something like this is advertised by the STATE, to the **World** about where and what they are doing, this brings a different problem to all in the Community.

JUST BECAUSE IT IS THE LAW, DOES NOT MAKE IT RIGHT.

MY REASONS ARE:

1) We have enough domestic violence in this little community with the alcohol problems.

2) This Farm will be adjacent to the Klutina River, a very popular Sport Fishing River for Red and King Salmon. In the summer a huge group of people use THE RIVER for their recreation

3) The Road Right of Ways of the Richardson Highway and three well used Camp Grounds all within a quarter of a mile of the property. These being used in the summer months, from the end of May to middle of Aug. or the first of Sept.

4) This community doesn't need innocent people stumbling onto or close to a private property with a marijuana farm on it, to get themselves in trouble.

5) The North East/West property line is very close to the river shore of the Klutina River where fishermen walk and fish.

5) And the STATE MAKING IT A KNOWN Property for a Marijuana farm is a real good advertisement for a lot of trouble in the future and for everyone in the Copper River Basin

Thank you Larry St. Amand

From:	Brad Henspeter
To:	Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored)
Cc:	klutinariverman@yahoo.com
Subject:	Comments - Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license application #10117
Date:	Thursday, May 19, 2016 10:28:52 AM
Attachments:	Marijuana application - comments, 5-18-16.pdf

Dear Marijuana Control Board,
Attached are my comments regarding the license application #10117 in Copper Center. I have included the email of the applicant, Jason Harder, and have also sent a printed copy to the Copper Center Community Association. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.
~Ramona Henspeter

May 18, 2016

To: Alaska Alcohol & Marijuana Control Board
Cc: Jason Harder and the Copper Center Community Association
From: Ramona Henspeter
Regarding: Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license application, #10117

I am a neighbor of the applicant, Jason Harder, and live approximately 1/3 mile from the proposed business site, as the crow flies. I am writing to state my opposition to the application for a 'standard marijuana cultivation facility' license, #10117 (Alaska Fireweed Farm) for the following reasons:

- The proposed business location in Copper Center lies within the Copper Valley, which is a large, 'unorganized' part of Alaska. There are no local zoning ordinances for residential or business property use, no local government to closely regulate and monitor the proposed marijuana business, and no tax revenue would come directly to the community. Since granting marijuana business licenses is new to Alaska, and there are many unknowns at this point, it seems unwise to grant a license in a non-borough area where oversight and regulation will come from a distant regulatory board that has no vested interest in our community.

- Growing marijuana is not the same as growing traditional agricultural crops such as hay, flowers or vegetables. Marijuana is a lucrative cash crop, but it's also a drug that remains illegal under federal law. Our closest State Trooper office monitors an area the size of Ohio, and is located in Glennallen, 15 miles away. There is no VPSO in the Copper Center area. Should any issues take place at the business site, law enforcement assistance would be limited. As a neighbor, I do not want this controlled substance grown commercially in our residential neighborhood.

- Since the applicant's operating plan is not yet publicly available, community members haven't had the opportunity to review any of the applicant's required documents, so questions remain, such as: What is the proposed size of the operation? Where is the proposed location on the property? What sort of fencing will surround the business site? How will the applicant comply with regulations regarding "prohibitions, cultivation plan, odor control, testing procedure and protocols and security"? This information is important to property owners and/or residents in the neighborhood and community.

- Alaska Fireweed Farm lies in an area that is a mix of residential, recreation, and tourism. During the summer, the immediate area of Mile 101 Richardson Highway is a busy hub, including highway tourist traffic, salmon fishermen, overnight campers, and Princess Hotel guests, in addition to local residents. The property abuts both the Richardson Highway and a public easement along the Klutina River, a salmon fishing river that's popular statewide. Copper River Wilderness Princess Lodge lies across the river, atop the bluff. A privately-owned campground, a state-maintained boat launch, and a large

highway pull-out are in use directly across the Richardson Highway. Constant foot traffic and roadside camping take place along the highway easement and river bank during the busy salmon fishing season. The proposed marijuana business would be vulnerable to this steady stream of visitors passing close by.

The marijuana application process is brand new in Alaska, and this application will set a precedent for other rural applicants who may be watching and waiting. The Marijuana Control Board should take great care to examine all possible repercussions for granting such a license within the Copper Valley or other non-organized areas of Alaska, before taking action on this application request. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments at this point in the process. Please involve the Copper Center community in public discussion as you proceed.

Sincerely,

Ramona J. Henspeter

P.O. Box 98, Copper Center, AK 99573

henspeter@cvinternet.net; 907-822-3974

From:	Brad Henspeter
To:	Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored); Samaniego, Joe P (CED); klutinariverman@yahoo.com
Subject:	Objection to Specific Application - Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license application #10117
Date:	Thursday, May 26, 2016 1:23:23 PM
Attachments:	Marijuana Control board 2nd comments 5-19-16.pdf

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Joe & Marijuana Control Board,

I did make a comment regarding Jason Harder's 'standard marijuana cultivation' license application. At the time I made the comment, I didn't realize there was a distinct difference between making a comment and stating an objection. I have revised the subject heading to state it as an objection and have attached the original document to the Board. Since the application is in the non-borough area, I have no local government body to submit this letter to.
Brad Henspeter

To: Alcohol & Marijuana Control Board
From: Brad Henspeter, P.O. Box 98, Copper Center, AK 99573
Regarding: Objection to Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility license application, #10117

I am a neighbor of the applicant, Jason Harder. My property is on the north bank of the Klutina River, just east of the New Richardson Hwy road bridge. Jason's property is on the south bank of the Klutina River, just west of the New Richardson Hwy road bridge. I have known Jason for many years and appreciate him as an individual, but I must oppose his Marijuana Cultivation Facility. It is unfortunate that I must actively oppose my neighbor's activities, but in this case the state is moving far too fast in setting up cultivation facilities in this non-borough area, of which the Board has little information.

Reasons for my opposition:
Location:
Jason's property (Lot 39, Township 2 North, Range 1 West, Copper River Meridian, approximately 6.5 acres) with its visible location adjacent to the Klutina River and Richardson Hwy, make it an unsuitable location for a commercial operation. Jason's lot is approximately at river level, and there will be constant foot traffic along the river adjoining his property during June, July, and August. During the fishing season, people often camp in the highway right-of-way, adjoining his lot. A large campground is located just across the highway to the east, with lots of foot traffic back and forth during the fishing season. Also, the main Klutina River pull-off and boat landing is located directly across the highway from Jason's property.

For those of us on the north bank of the Klutina, elevated 200-300 feet above river level, Jason's commercial site poses another concern. This will allow us to view from above into his operation. We don't want to look from our bluff and see special fencing and lighting applications to protect a controlled substance operation. Very likely, those at Princess Copper River Wilderness Lodge, located on the bluff, directly across the river, won't appreciate it either. The lodge has a prominent outdoor viewing area open to the public, complete with interpretative signs and viewing scopes. The scopes could easily be used in this elevated position to view the commercial grow site.

Current Law Enforcement
The Copper River Valley has little law enforcement. The Alaska State Trooper post in Glennallen, approximately 15 miles away, are our community's only active duty officers, and they are spread far too thin during the summer months to provide adequate protection to monitor a controlled substance business. Please ask them for their input.

If the applicant is required to obtain signatures indicating approval from 2/3 of the permanent residents located within five miles of the local post office, that list of

signatures must be reviewed by local law enforcement, to make sure the list is accurate.

Copper Center's history of substance abuse
Our community has been affected in a negative way by substance abuse. Abuse of both drugs and alcohol have led to many shortened lives and broken homes in Copper Center. A visible commercial operation of a controlled substance will further degrade our community and will project the wrong image to our youth and our summer visitors as well. Operations such as this often enrich a few at the expense of many.

Precedent of other marijuana grow operations:
Please reference this document of a marijuana grow operation issue in Skagit County, Washington in early 2015. There would be similarities in Copper Center, so we trust you won't let this happen in our community.
http://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/PublicComments2015-02-05.pdf

Based on the above, I feel that Jason's operation would be best located in another area of our state that has local regulation and oversight, as well as a less public setting. As stated above, I value Jason as a neighbor and Copper Center community resident, but I cannot support his proposed business activity in a remote, wild and scenic community like Copper Center.

Sincerely,
Brad Henspeter