

Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC)
P.O. Box 111
Maple Valley, WA 98038

February 12, 2016

To: Sponsors of Senate Bill 5130:

Kirk Pearson: kirk.pearson@leg.wa.gov

Don Benton: don.benton@leg.wa.gov

Ways and Means Committee Leaders

Chair: Andy Hill: andy.hill@leg.wa.gov

Vice-Chair: John Braun: john.braun@leg.wa.gov

Vice-Chair: Bruce Dammeier: bruce.dammeier@leg.wa.gov

Vice-Chair: Jim Honeyford: jim.honeyford@leg.wa.gov

Ranking Member: Jim Hargrove: jim.hargrove@leg.wa.gov

Assistant Ranking Member: Karen Keiser: karen.keiser@leg.wa.gov

Ranking Minority Member: Kevin Ranker: kevin.ranker@leg.wa.gov

Re: Proposed State Bill 5130 Referred to Ways and Means Committee--"Restricting marijuana producer and processor businesses from being located in certain residential and rural areas."

Honorable Senators,

We strongly support proposed Senate Bill 5130.

The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) represents over 18,000 citizens living in the unincorporated area of southeast King County. Ours is a vast rural area. We and the citizens we represent are of all political stripes, as is our Vision: "Our community's Rural Character will be supported by facilitating strong local ties and communication between the public, organizations, and government; promoting locally owned businesses and supporting quality education; protecting the environment, and maintaining landowners' rights and responsibilities; promoting controlled and well-planned growth with appropriate infrastructure; ensuring proper representation for rural interests and needs; and supporting the health and safety and the privacy of our vibrant community."

Over the past two years we have had many concerned citizens who have packed our meetings several times to voice very strong concerns and complaints about proposed multiple sites for Marijuana growing and/or processing facilities in the Rural Area of King County. Such facilities have no place in residential areas, especially in the Rural Area, where Police patrols and protection is minimal.

We support proposed Bill 5130's addition of the following to RCW 69.50.331 — Application for License:

"9) The state liquor control board shall not issue a marijuana producer or marijuana processor license for any premises located within an area zoned for residential use or an area zoned for rural use with a minimum lot size of five acres."

Such restriction of Marijuana growing operations and/or processing facilities from being located in the Rural Area is a common-sense solution to an ever-growing problem. Proposed Marijuana growing operations could be located in the Agricultural Production Districts (~40,000 acres in King County). Proposed Marijuana processing and manufacturing facilities have no place in the Rural Area or near residences and should be located in incorporated commercial areas where such industrial concerns belong.

In closing, we strongly support Senate Bill 5130. We thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter to so many of our Rural Area citizens.

Sincerely,

Steve Hiester (gmvac_chair@hotmail.com)

Chairman, Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council

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