

I am a supporter of the cannabis production and processing industry, but I strongly oppose processing operations being allowed in rural areas due to the hazardous nature of some of the operations, such as butane extraction. The explosion and fire hazard is extremely concerning, especially with possibility of fire in rural residential or agricultural areas that can be difficult to get fire fighting crew, equipment, and water to.

I live in an area that was affected by wildfires last summer, and crews had a great deal of difficulty fighting a fire close to my home, as there is no municipal water supply in the area - only private wells - and water had to be delivered by tanker trucks. There is a proposed cannabis grow and processing plant to be built just up the street from my home, and I cannot even begin to imagine what could happen, should there be any sort of accident with the processing plant.

Cannabis processing should be done in industrial or commercial areas that are more easily accessible to fire crews and that are close to access of municipal water supplies in order to operate safely, and minimize risk to residents and agricultural businesses. I am fully in favor of the industry, but with some regulation and restriction.

Thank you for your time.