

Our family lives on Chehalem Mountain and are in support of this bill.

There is a company trying to establish a hemp grow and CBD processing plant on our mountain. They will be processing other farms' crops, so this is not a small operation. To process CBD, they will need to store and use large quantities of highly flammable liquids. This mountain is very wooded, winding gravel roads, no nearby fire response, and we've learned from the recent wildfires, very vulnerable to fires spreading quickly. (Neighbors had to call 911 to warn of the chemicals being stored on the property as the fire came within a mile of their facilities.) I know that there is a fire inspection required with the Land Use Application, so this applicant had existing "Ag Buildings" that they will be processing in. Because they were deemed Ag Buildings, they did NOT require fire inspections. So, if they are allowed to process, they will be using the loophole they found and thousands of people will be in danger. If this Bill passes, they will be required to move their processing to an industrial area where there is safety precautions already set up, quick fire response and not thousands of acres of woods surrounding them. They are also required to grow a certain percentage of what they are processing, so they are going to grow hemp. This mountain is on a Ground Water Limited Aquifer and so if they are to irrigate the 22 acres of high irrigation required hemp, they will drain the aquifer in as quickly as 5 years and thousands of people will no longer have water. With this being a new industry, it is seeming that the citizens are needing to be protected from the new issues that have arose, especially the rural areas where access to water and fire retardant foam is lacking for these types of possible explosion dangers. Thank you for your consideration and time.