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From: Robin Roberts [mailto:robin@mvadventures.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:36 AM

To: Assembly

Cc: Stephen Giesbrecht; Roberts, Jim

Subject: Marijuana Regulations

Dear Petersburg Assembly Members,

As Petersburg residents, we want to voice our concerns about marijuana in our community. The bottom line is that we don't want it at all (with the exception of medical marijuana, prescribed by a licensed physician).

Marijuana is a gateway drug; at best it does nothing to enhance or benefit our community, and at worst it leads to more serious drugs and all the concomitant problems and costs.

Although the State of Alaska has deemed marijuana to be legal it remains a Federal offense. We would like to see it banned in this town, but if we must proceed we want to encourage the Petersburg Assembly to adopt regulations that keep any kind of commercial retail outlet or production facility away from our schools, downtown community, and ferry terminals by several miles – so that it will take some effort to get there.

What we don't want is to have our young people walking by a retail outlet or production facility every day as they go about their business.

We don't need to wave it in people's faces, encouraging further interest. We don't want to enable "marijuana tourism" where visitors spend more time buying and trying weed than enjoying our Norwegian dancers, rosemaling, harbor walks, nature hikes and the like. We don't want to make this drug an easy temptation for the cannery employees who travel here every year to work the busy season.

What are the plans and funding for programs to heighten awareness for our children about the dangers of marijuana once it is more readily available around town? What will be done to protect our children from edible forms of the drug, which can be easily confused with an innocent cookie or brownie? What controls will be put on edible forms which are often misused because a "normal" dose is smaller than the entire cookie or brownie? How much additional policing will be needed to monitor marijuana retail outlets and production facilities, and to handle the increased risk of DWI? Can a community this size support more than one retail outlet? (We believe one is too many.)

We see nothing but added costs to the community, with NO benefit.

This is not what our community is about. What attracted us to Petersburg is the family oriented spirit and culture of hard work and education. Concerts, Library programs, dance recitals, talent shows - this is what our community is about... not drugs. We have enough problems with drugs in this town - we don't want to encourage more. We dearly wish that marijuana would be banned from our town. Barring that, retail sales and production should be banished far away and with limited hours. The tighter the rules, the better off this community will be.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin & Jim Roberts

PO Box 1836, Petersburg