

June 18, 2018

To Whom it may Concern:

We write this letter as we are greatly concerned about the proposed greenhouse operation to be built across the road from us. We realize that this facility will be built however to pave over prime agricultural land is not the place for this, nor a price the farming community should have to pay, not to mention concerns about traffic, lighting, water and odours in the rural area.

We have experienced a great deal of increased traffic on Jerseyville Road at certain times of the day. For residence attempting to get in or out of their driveways it poses a greater risk. Given that the road is quite hilly, it is very difficult to navigate farm equipment from field to field as people get impatient with slow moving vehicles and try passing where it is not safe, add to that the fact that Jerseyville road is a favourite route for cyclists and it is an accident waiting to happen, increasing the traffic on this road creates a very dangerous situation. Not to mention the wear and tear on the roads with all construction vehicles and trucks turning into the site.

We have been farming at this location for over 50 years and in that time have not had our well run dry. With this new proposed facility, we are greatly concerned about how it will affect the water table levels. We had met with the staff at the Green Organic Dutchman to discuss this along with other area farmers and residents. At that time, we were told that a meter would be installed on our well to monitor how their water usage would affect our water levels. To our dismay this was not done. We are livestock farmers and cannot be without water for our animals. The increased water demand from the large cannabis operation in the area will not only be from the greenhouse operations but also from the increased usage from septic systems, and day to day use due to the increase in employees at the facility.

Living across from the proposed location of the facility light pollution is also a great concern. Currently there are very bright lights on all night illuminating the area (lights that are over and above what a rural resident or agricultural business has). We cannot imagine the increase in this pollution once the large greenhouses are built.

Odours from Cannabis operations are another great concern. In Norfolk county families have been forced from their homes due to odours and light issues caused by large greenhouses and their proximity to residences. Quality of life should not be affected by allowing this corporation to build their facility close to rural residences on prime agricultural land.

The most important issue to us however is the fact that this facility is paving over agricultural land. Land that once paved over will be lost forever. The argument has come forth that cannabis is considered an agricultural product. The difference however is that there are no farmers involved. The large cucumber greenhouses they compare themselves too are producing food by a farmer on his/her land, or the farmers who produce cut flowers for the markets, these are farmers using the soil to grow the product and if they are grown in greenhouses the amount of land used by the greenhouse is not as vast as the proposed cannabis facility. The greenhouse can be erected on marginal land and continue their operations, farming cannot be done on marginal land with any success.

The decision made on this issue will affect the future of agriculture for generations. This will affect the ability of farmers to produce food locally. We are asking that you please consider the consequences of paving over prime agricultural land, land that has proven it can produce food for the citizens of Hamilton. Land that once paved over will lose that value forever.

Sincerely,



Karl and Isolde Koeppe