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**Date:** 01/12/2015 07:41 PM  
**Subject:** Public Hearing for IgaDL request for Marijuana operations in Tabernash

I understand that there will be a public hearing regarding the licensing of a retail marijuana operation, marijuana grow operation, and Marijuana infused product manufacturer operation in Tabernash at the sight of the old Highland Lumber Yard. I will be unable to attend the meeting in person, however, wanted to voice my opposition to this license.

It would appear from the articles that have appeared in the local press that this license and "approval" is all but a "fore-gone conclusion". I would hope that is not the case. I have attached a link to the recent article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on Saturday, January 10, 2015. There are two primary points contained within the article that I believe are very important for the County Commissioners to consider.

First, one of the major arguments made in support of legalizing recreational marijuana during the ballot initiative was the increased tax revenue to be realized by the State of Colorado, along with the cities, towns and municipalities that allow operations. The article does a good job to help dispel this "perception". Tax revenues are falling well below projections and have had a steady decline each month. The "novelty" of marijuana sales has waned and along with it the taxes. Many cities and towns are now realizing significantly lower than anticipated tax revenues, and in some cases the expenses of law enforcement, education and monitoring now exceed the "revenue". So, it begs the question, what is the economic impact? A hand full of jobs, sure, but mostly non-skilled, minimum wage jobs. These are not career opportunities. So, the County Commissions need to reconsider the reliance on the tax revenue projections and there true impact to the county.

Second, the article also does a good job to differentiate the beneficiaries of these types of operations. Coming back to the notion of a novelty. Approximately 90% of the sales in mountain towns are to tourists. This number is around 50% in Denver metro area. So, the real beneficiary of having these operations in our county are not the county residents, although I am sure that there are a number of county residents that will / do utilize recreational marijuana. The vast majority of customers are going to be people traveling through the county and then ultimately back home. I guess the Commissioners need to think about what it is that they want Grand County to be known for and what attracts visitors, along with their visitor dollars. I think of skiing at Winter Park / Mary Jane. I think of boating in Grand Lake. We have four golf courses to play and miles of trails to hike. How does marijuana fit into any of this?

The last point I would like to make, and again, the article does a good job of alluding to this as well, but you don't need the WSJ to tell you, just ask our local medical professionals. The impact of legalized recreational marijuana has already been felt in this county. The number of "accidental" overdoses of THC, related to ingestion of edibles by minors, many of which were accidental, meaning they were unaware that it was marijuana infused edibles, is staggering for the size and population of Grand County. Please think about the impact to our children. They are the future of our county.

This is the link to the article that appeared in the WSJ on January 10, 2015

[http://cp.mcafee.com/d/FZsSd1M071NJ5xd555NUOsLCXCOXI9L8IzDzqtS4TAm4NNJeX2r0bb8UOsCOXI9CzB5dxUOsCOctwXo\\_UBglqL4oX13H1VKxKRu8NS27mHPT3rBDTC233\\_nVZ4s-MZRxB00QNT6zBU0sFEEYJte0agJNPfaxVZicHs3jq9J4TVAXTLuZXTKrKr016a2FbVIp0IvUHDAE5X1fH7kaBRGPbD-hQ-gFIVlwtShZ2YMBRtDoCnmzW4HjBm52ZniV3r5vzgLaCF0JgKyMDtVCVEV79BPNI0Uy81US2gR4r18QMDxMS7xw4y382y9bmVRFghB0UIr8RtFQDYpBwLrq1U6CTS1P1IbdA3Vmd40n\\_oWhd43JJoCy0d8Wwug88-bd\\_ipEwH40g3uNA8JX3jh1lUXelok44E6v04Wg-cdE1dzHCRc8vRMCS](http://cp.mcafee.com/d/FZsSd1M071NJ5xd555NUOsLCXCOXI9L8IzDzqtS4TAm4NNJeX2r0bb8UOsCOXI9CzB5dxUOsCOctwXo_UBglqL4oX13H1VKxKRu8NS27mHPT3rBDTC233_nVZ4s-MZRxB00QNT6zBU0sFEEYJte0agJNPfaxVZicHs3jq9J4TVAXTLuZXTKrKr016a2FbVIp0IvUHDAE5X1fH7kaBRGPbD-hQ-gFIVlwtShZ2YMBRtDoCnmzW4HjBm52ZniV3r5vzgLaCF0JgKyMDtVCVEV79BPNI0Uy81US2gR4r18QMDxMS7xw4y382y9bmVRFghB0UIr8RtFQDYpBwLrq1U6CTS1P1IbdA3Vmd40n_oWhd43JJoCy0d8Wwug88-bd_ipEwH40g3uNA8JX3jh1lUXelok44E6v04Wg-cdE1dzHCRc8vRMCS)

Sincerely,

Glenn O'Flaherty  
Granby Resident