

**David S. Wall**  
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February 9, 2021

To: House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery; others

**Re: I SUPPORT [HB 2607]...But, I have some concerns.**

**[HB 2607]** "Exempts from construction taxes residential housing constructed to replace housing that was destroyed or damaged by wildfire or by another event that is the basis for a statewide, county, or city declaration of emergency. Applies to residential housing destroyed or damaged on or before January 1, 2020."

In Yamhill County, the Board of Commissioners [**Mary Starrett, Casey Kulla** and Rick Olson-who no longer sits on the BOC] authorized a marijuana/hemp processing/extraction refinery on Chehalem Mountain.

Taken from "Save Chehalem Mountain" website: <https://savechehalemmountain.com/our-mission/>

"In January 2020, Yamhill County Government approved a marijuana/hemp processing/extraction refinery on Chehalem Mountain at 18505 NE Jaquith Road (Docket SDR-28-19)

We are concerned about the placement of a business which will be using flammable materials on top of a mountain with limited fire suppression, winding gravel roads, steep terrain and frequent high winds. We are concerned about irrigating a crop in an area with limited groundwater that the residents and businesses within the Aquifer also get their water from. We believe commercial operations like this should be located in an industrial area, with inspections for safety, close to infrastructure with fire suppression equipment and access to first responders, with easy access to municipal water supplies.

Over 40 documented explosions have happened in Oregon with these types of marijuana refinery operations. The Oregon State Fire Marshall does not have an accurate explosion count because there is no code in their system to track "Refinery Explosions". An explosion at this refinery could be devastating for the region.

Normally when the proper permit is pulled from the County, it triggers an inspection from TVFR (Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue). The structures at 18505 Jaquith were permitted in such a manner that there haven't been typical fire inspections and TVFR has limited jurisdiction. The Yamhill Planning Director classified three buildings as "agricultural buildings" which bypasses TVFR inspecting them for safety. On the application, it shows "TVFR n/a".

According to firehouse.com, "The occurrence of BHO lab explosions is significant. Due to their prevalence, explosive nature, and significant risk of injury to occupants and first responders, some within the law enforcement community are describing hash labs as the 'modern meth lab problem.'"

You can access the full firehouse.com article on Butane Hash Labs, and their implications for fire safety [here](#).

**\*\*\*Issue: Will [HB 2607] apply to residential homes that are blown-up, damaged and or burned to the ground as a direct and proximate cause; of the Yamhill County's BOC decision, as referenced and incorporated into [Docket No.: SDR-28-19]?**

I am not a resident or own property on Chehalem Mountain. I am not associated with "Save Chehalem Mountain." My dear friend Laura Cochran, her life was taken in defense of Chehalem Mountain.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
/s/ David S. Wall