

May 15, 2023

Town of Killingly Planning and Zoning Commission

VIA EMAIL

This is a citizen comment letter Spec Perm Appl #23-1308 The Craft Group (Big-Y Foods, Inc./Landowner) request to open cannabis establishment (retail & manufacturing) 70 Wauregan Road. Danielson, CT.

1. Attached is a copy of CGA Regulation of Adult cannabis
https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/sup/chap_420h.htm#sec_21a-422f

Sec. 21a-422f.

(e) Until June 30, 2024, no municipality shall grant zoning approval for more retailers or micro-cultivators than a number that would allow for one retailer and one micro-cultivator for every twenty-five thousand residents of such municipality, as determined by the most recent decennial census.

(f) On and after July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, in the discretion of the commissioner, post on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site a specific number of residents such that no municipality shall grant zoning approval for more retailers or micro-cultivators than would result in one retailer and one micro-cultivator for every such specific number of residents, as determined by the commissioner. Any such determination shall be made to ensure reasonable access to cannabis by consumers.

I understand there is a licensed cannabis establishment approved and under construction 1050 North Main Street, Dayville, this satisfies the limit in Killingly for the foreseeable future as 2020 census count was 17,500.

2. Sec. 21a-422g.1

d) For up to thirty days after the opening of a retailer or hybrid retailer, a municipality may charge such retailer or hybrid retailer for any necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the municipality for provision of public safety services in relation to such opening, including, but not limited to, public safety costs incurred to direct traffic, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars.

This location has limited parking. The parking lot is congested, and has odd configuration. Entering and exiting the plaza is usually challenging.

3. Normalizing Cannabis use is not compatible with Killingly's Family values

Tax Revenue is not the only consideration. Surrounding municipalities have deferred on this type of retail space as the risks outweigh the benefits in their communities. Town of Killingly will absorb the law enforcement and social costs of this establishment. Despite the legality of cannabis other states, including Connecticut, are already revising their laws due to unintended consequences.

Killingly already is bearing the burden of a transient and embedded unhoused population, drug diversion court, and probation monitoring. We have a methadone clinic. The Town budget's Human Services contribution to United Services, is arguably due to substance abuse.

Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) "Our main concerns about the negative effects of marijuana are during pregnancy and childhood into adolescence because we know that the cannabinoid system is involved in brain development," said Volkow. "These periods, in which the brain is forming and changing at the fastest pace, are when you see effects of marijuana that are perhaps unique and different from its effects in an adult."

National Institute of Health Library of Medicine "Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug in the United States and all over the world. Reports indicate that the potency of cannabis preparation has been increasing. This report examines the concentration of cannabinoids in illicit cannabis products seized by DEA (drug and enforcement administration) over the last two decades, with particular emphasis on Δ^9 -THC and cannabidiol (CBD). It is concluded that there is a shift in the production of illicit cannabis plant material from regular marijuana to sinsemilla. This increase in potency poses higher risk of cannabis use, particularly among adolescents.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4987131/>

Respectfully,

*Kathy H. Feder
#101 Promised Crossing
Dayville*

Sec. 21a-422f. Municipal authority re establishing cannabis establishments. Restrictions. Zoning. Special permits. (a) As used in this section, "municipality" means any town, city or borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough, and a district establishing a zoning commission under section 7-326.

(b) Any municipality may, by amendment to such municipality's zoning regulations or by local ordinance, (1) prohibit the establishment of a cannabis establishment, (2) establish reasonable restrictions regarding the hours and signage within the limits of such municipality, or (3) establish restrictions on the proximity of cannabis establishments to any of the establishments listed in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 30-46. The chief zoning official of a municipality shall report, in writing, any zoning changes adopted by the municipality regarding cannabis establishments pursuant to this subsection to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and to the department not later than fourteen days after the adoption of such changes.

(c) Unless otherwise provided for by a municipality through its zoning regulations or ordinances, a cannabis establishment shall be zoned as if for any other similar use, other than a cannabis establishment, would be zoned.

(d) Any restriction regarding hours, zoning and signage of a cannabis establishment adopted by a municipality shall not apply to an existing cannabis establishment located in such municipality if such cannabis establishment does not convert to a different license type, for a period of five years after the adoption of such prohibition or restriction.

✓(e) Until June 30, 2024, no municipality shall grant zoning approval for more retailers or micro-cultivators than a number that would allow for one retailer and one micro-cultivator for every twenty-five thousand residents of such municipality, as determined by the most recent decennial census.

✓(f) On and after July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, in the discretion of the commissioner, post on the Department of Consumer Protection's Internet web site a specific number of residents such that no municipality shall grant zoning approval for more retailers or micro-cultivators than would result in one retailer and one micro-cultivator for every such specific number of residents, as determined by the commissioner. Any such determination shall be made to ensure reasonable access to cannabis by consumers.

✓(g) For purposes of ensuring compliance with this section, a special permit or other affirmative approval shall be required for any retailer or micro-cultivator seeking to be located within a municipality. A municipality shall not grant such special permit or approval for any retailer or micro-cultivator applying for such special permit or approval if that would result in an amount that (1) until June 30, 2024, exceeds the density cap of one retailer and one micro-cultivator for every twenty-five thousand residents, and (2) on and after July 1, 2024, exceeds any density cap determined by the commissioner under subsection (f) of this section. When awarding final licenses for a retailer or micro-cultivator, the Department of Consumer Protection may assume that, if an applicant for such final license has obtained zoning approval, the approval of a final license for such applicant shall not result in a violation of this section or any other municipal restrictions on the number or density of cannabis establishments.

(June Sp. Sess. P.A. 21-1, S. 148.)

History: June Sp. Sess. P.A. 21-1 effective July 1, 2021 (Revisor's note: In Subsec. (b) "subsection (a) of subdivision (1)" was changed to "subdivision (1) of subsection (a)" for accuracy).

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Sec. 21a-422g. Vote re recreational sale of marijuana in a municipality. Prohibition on restricting delivery or transport of cannabis. Donations from cannabis establishments prohibited. Municipal costs re opening. (a) Upon the petition of not less than ten per cent of the electors of any municipality, lodged with the town clerk at least sixty days before the date of any regular election, as defined in section 9-1, the selectmen of the municipality shall warn the electors of such municipality that, at such regular election, a vote shall be taken to determine: (1)

Whether or not the recreational sale of marijuana shall be permitted in such municipality, or (2) whether the sale of marijuana shall be permitted in such municipality in one or more of the classes of license of cannabis establishments. The ballot label designations in a vote upon the question of cannabis establishment license shall be "Shall the sale of recreational marijuana be allowed in ... (Name of municipality)?" or "Shall the sale of cannabis under (Specified license or Licenses) be allowed in ... (Name of municipality)?" or "Shall the sale of recreational marijuana be prohibited (No Licenses) in ... (Name of municipality)?" and shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of section 9-250. No elector shall vote for more than one designation. Such vote shall be taken in the manner prescribed in section 9-369 and shall become effective on the first Monday of the month next succeeding such election and shall remain in force until a new vote is taken; provided such vote may be taken at a special election called for the purpose in conformity with the provisions of section 9-164 and provided at least one year shall have elapsed since the previous vote was taken. The provisions of chapter 145 concerning absentee voting at referenda shall apply to all votes taken upon the question of cannabis establishment license. Any class of cannabis establishments already allowed in a municipality shall not be affected by any vote.

(b) No municipality shall prohibit delivery of cannabis to a consumer, qualifying patient or caregiver when the delivery is made by a retailer, hybrid retailer, dispensary facility, delivery service, micro-cultivator or other person authorized to make such delivery pursuant to RERACA. No municipality shall prohibit the transport of cannabis to, from or through such municipality by any person licensed or registered pursuant to RERACA to transport cannabis.

(c) No municipality or local official shall condition any official action, or accept any donation in moneys or in kind, from any cannabis establishment or from an individual or corporation that has applied for a license to open or operate a cannabis establishment in such municipality. No municipality shall negotiate or enter into a local host agreement with a cannabis establishment or a person that has applied for a license to open or operate a cannabis establishment in such municipality.

✓(d) For up to thirty days after the opening of a retailer or hybrid retailer, a municipality may charge such retailer or hybrid retailer for any necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the municipality for provision of public safety services in relation to such opening, including, but not limited to, public safety costs incurred to direct traffic, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars.