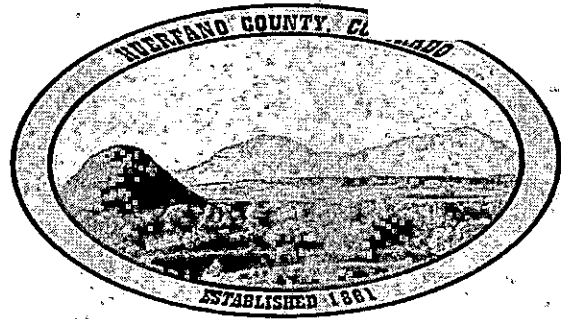


Ray Garcia, Chairman
 Max Vezzani, Commissioner
 Gerald Cisneros, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

March 6, 2017

House Finance Committee
 Colorado State Capitol
 200 E. Colfax
 Denver, CO 80203

Dear Committee Members:

Illegal pot grows are a major problem here in Huerfano County. We currently have at least 30 that we know of – with no real method of recourse. We were able to get a representative from the Attorney General's office down for a presentation last year to help us understand what enforcement authority we have. His advice was, essentially, that we did not have a lot of legal ability to go after these illegal grows! We have houses down here that have been illegally retrofitted to offer 300 amp electric service (most houses are only equipped to have 100-150 amp electric service). We have greenhouses for "vegetables" springing up all over the county that are being used to grow marijuana outside of our licensing process.

We have modified our zoning code to limit plant counts to 18 plants, but even if the Sheriff busts someone for growing more than that, the case doesn't go to the D.A. for prosecution. Our plant cap is a land use and zoning matter, so it is dealt with in county court – if at all.

HB 17-1220 would give us the teeth to deal with the illegal grows in a manner that would hopefully deter others from trying the same thing. We really need a tool to give the Sheriff a level of comfort in dealing with the illegal grows and to free the land use department for the workload for which it was originally intended.

We urge you to look favorably at this legislation for the benefit of Colorado, and to help us control the illegal activities across our state.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration.

On Behalf of the Huerfano County Commissioners

John Galusha, County Administrator