

Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Frelinghuysen Township School District (“District”) is a pre-kindergarten through grade 6 school district located in Warren County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the District operates Frelinghuysen Elementary School, which is located at 780 Route 94, Newton, New Jersey 07860 (hereinafter, “School”);

WHEREAS, it has recently come to the District’s attention that a company has applied to the Frelinghuysen Township Land Use Board (hereinafter, “Township”) for authorization to utilize property located at 720 Route 94 (hereinafter, “Facility”) as a “cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facility”; and

WHEREAS, it is the District’s understanding that the Facility will grow and manufacture cannabis in approximately 182,000 square-feet of greenhouse structures at the Facility for commercial use; and

WHEREAS, the Facility is located only approximately 1,080 feet from the School; and

WHEREAS, because most of the School building does not have air-conditioning, staff often leave School building windows open during the fall and spring seasons during school hours to allow fresh air to enter the building;

WHEREAS, the District has significant concerns regarding the location, size, and scope of the Facility, and its impacts on the School community; and

WHEREAS, the District has great concerns that should the Township approve the Facility, the emissions caused by the cannabis cultivation will likely cause a lingering odor to emanate from the Facility and have a harmful impact on air quality, which will negatively impact the well-being of School staff, students, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious concerns pertaining to students’ and the faculty’s abilities to fully engage and concentrate in school despite the strong odors that will be produced by the Facility’s cannabis production, which will almost assuredly reach the School due to the School’s close geographic proximity to the Facility, and have a negative and potentially dangerous effect on the learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious concerns, both short-term and long-term, pertaining to the health and safety of students and staff caused by the myriad of environmental issues, including possible depletion of the water table as well as possible air and groundwater pollution, that would likely result due to the Township’s approval of the Facility; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious concerns that approval of the Facility would cause a great increase in traffic in the vicinity surrounding the School, which could negatively impact student and staff arrival and dismissal times as well as during extracurricular activities that extend beyond the school day; and

WHEREAS, the District has serious security concerns that a cultivation and manufacturing facility of the Facility's magnitude would have a negative impact on the safety and security of the School;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Frelinghuysen Township Board of Education formally expresses its opposition to the proposed development of the Facility for the reasons contained herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent by the Board Secretary to the Township Governing Body, the Mayor, the Planning & Zoning Boards, Governor Murphy, our local Legislators, the Commissioner of Education, and the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.