

Dale and Wanda Pigg
3050 Fly Road
Santa Fe, TN 38482

January 15, 2004

Judge William J. Haynes, Jr.
U.S. District Judge
c/o Peter J. Strianse, Esq.
Tune, Entrekin and White, PC
Suite 2100, AmSouth Center
315 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37238-2100

Dear Judge Haynes,

We have known Bernie Ellis for twenty three years, when he moved into our community. We have heard rumors about his association with marijuana over the years, although we have never heard of one person he has sold drugs to. We have never known Bernie to own an automobile that we would drive over 100 miles in. We have been to his house where he has very modest accommodations. In fact, he didn't have modern plumbing until about four years ago. We have never seen him live anything but a very meager lifestyle.

Bernie's contributions to our local society have been innumerable. He spends countless hours on community service. Bernie uses his horticultural knowledge and abilities to enhance the beauty and preservation of our local Civil War Memorial on the square in Santa Fe, Tennessee.

We have never used drugs and we probably wouldn't recognize marijuana growing if we saw it. We have the utmost contempt for anyone who would distribute, sell or contribute to anyone's drug addiction. However, we have no objection to drugs used for comfort or pain relief to those who are in medical need. We know cocaine is used in hospitals for severe pain relief. Someone has to supply cocaine, marijuana and other drugs for medical benefits. From all information that we have been able to gather, Bernie's marijuana growing was strictly for medical purposes.

We know of numerous drug arrests in our county. Some of the people are arrested two or three times a year, and most are back home the same day. This past year, one very prominent citizen of our community was raided by an out-of-town drug task force. Large amounts of drugs were found, but because of his political ties, the whole episode was swept under the table and never mentioned in the newspaper.

Bernie has always contributed to the good and well-being of our community. We see NO benefits whatsoever from confiscating his farm, fining him large amounts of money and then spending thousands of dollars to keep a man in prison who is no threat to society whatsoever. We feel that it would be a great loss to waste his knowledge, experience and education in prison.

We can't see taking away a person's future and everything he has worked for all his life, although he may have used bad judgement in his approach to relieving some of society's pain and suffering.

Bernie Ellis is a good citizen and a good neighbor, and we are proud to call him our friend. We can't see any possible redeeming benefits to society by sending him to prison and taking his property.

Respectfully yours,

Dale Pigg

Wanda Pigg