



Willits Environmental Center

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Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

February 8th, 2021

Re: BOS Agenda Item 5g) Discussion and Possible Action Including Introduce and Waive First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 10A.15A.030 of the Mendocino County Code Modifying Certain Definitions Related to Genetically Modified Organisms (Sponsor: County Counsel)

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

The Willits Environmental Center, the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and Origins Council support the proposed ordinance and recommended action, and respectfully request your support for this item.

Our groups strongly support the intent of Measure H, passed by the voters of Mendocino County in 2004 to “protect the County's agriculture, environment, economy, and private property from genetic pollution by genetically modified organisms.” In light of subsequent advances in genetic engineering and market applications, we appreciate this effort to close any legal loopholes that would undermine the intent of Measure H, which we believe this ordinance accomplishes.

We greatly appreciate the Board of Supervisors direction last year for the formation of a stakeholder working group to collaborate on this effort. Our organizations, along with the Mendocino Farm Bureau collaborated with Mendocino County Agricultural Commissioner Jim Donnelly and Deputy County Council Matthew Kiedrowski to support this effort, and we are very appreciative to all parties for their participation and contributions.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment.

Willits Environmental Center, Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, Origins Council