

**From:** amanda ekstrand <amandagreeneyez@yahoo.com >

**To:** <bos@mendocinocounty.org>

**Date:** 4/23/2019 9:04 AM

**Subject:** Fee increases on cultivation

Dear members of our Board of Supervisors,

It has come to my attention that today is a vote regarding fee increases on most cannabis related activities. I implore why? Why is this burden falling upon those that are doing their due diligence to become compliant when it is incredibly clear that there has been a gross mismanagement of funds within our county's government agencies across the board. Multiple sects of our county's government have been operating in the red yet the small farmers are the ones who will get penalized. I have watched the continuation of the cannabis program come unraveled over the past 3 years..3 YEARS, without hardly any momentum forward. It is incredibly clear that the plight of cannabis farmers has been over shadowed by the potential to collect in revenue that has hardly been generated yet. Do you realize that many farmers are still waiting to collect on last year's harvests? Many farmers have been steam rolled by distributors without any means of legal recourse. Do you understand the amount of money it takes to remediate a property from very lucrative and destructive past logging practices without being able to obtain an ag loan to shoulder these costs? Then to do so while awaiting payment for their crops? I'm seriously beginning to feel that the county no longer truly cares about assisting farmers to become compliant. I work in the environmental sciences. I've done biological assessments of some of our most sensitive watersheds. Do you truly think by putting in place such exorbitant fees that farmers will choose to become compliant? I feel the vision of the the county's program is incredibly short sighted and that vision is only on the monetary aspects of it. Unfortunately your choices are the once slowly killing our county's chance to compete in this industry. The finger pointing and continued shifting of where and who runs the program is unprofessional and shameful. It has been 3 years and there has been hardly any momentum forward. To think that increasing fees on those that choose to participate is going to somehow save this withering program is bewildering. I urge you to find a way forward that assists farmers, not further burdens them. If not I guarantee you will see a swift exodus of those who participated.

Sincerely,

Amanda Green.

Sent from my iPhone