

September 10, 2021

To the Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County,

We are writing to you in regards to the September 14th vote to rescind the new ordinance CCAO, 22.18 on cannabis expansion.

Regarding this ordinance, we understand that it will allow a fourfold expansion of cannabis growth into fire-prone rangelands. This also allows environmentally important regions and precious natural resources to be repurposed for the sake of large cannabis farms. As Mendocino County struggles to maintain a consistent water supply for its residents amidst the current drought, with water sources depleting each day, conservation of our water is imperative. Moreover, straining our watershed supply is a cost we cannot afford, given that several districts in this county are currently facing extreme drought.

Our position on this matter is in support of taking action to reconsider the ordinance. Creating a special ballot to revote on the ordinance will cost the country a hefty sum of 300,000 dollars, money the County could allocate to other social services, infrastructure, and educational programs. With concern to the burden full rescindment may cause to local cannabis farmers, we propose a reinvestigation of the environmental consequences and the impact on the livelihood of local farmers.

We are not the only citizens who will be affected by these consequences. Together with voices from all across Mendocino County, we implore the Board to rescind the ordinance CCAO, 22.18 and reevaluate the situation to determine a course of action better suited for the environment and the local economy.

With kind regards,  
Developing Virtue Secondary Girls School Class of 2022