



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## Board of Supervisors

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CLERK OF THE BOARD

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July 26, 2024

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
1021 O Street, Suite 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2223 (Aguiar-Curry) Cannabis: Industrial Hemp – Proposed Technical Assistance - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Mendocino Board of Supervisors to express our opposition to the technical assistance proposed for AB 2223.

The County of Mendocino is concerned by the potential impact of the proposed technical assistance (TA) provisions of AB 2223. These provisions could significantly alter California's cannabis market, particularly affecting numerous small and independent cannabis businesses in rural areas, including homestead and legacy cultivators. Farmers, cannabis organizations, and the DCC's Hemp Report have all underscored the policy and logistical challenges associated with integrating hemp into legal cannabis products.

While some initial steps have been taken to address this issue, it remains a pressing concern. It is unfair to small, legacy, and legal cannabis cultivators to include naturally occurring THC and comparable cannabinoids extracted from hemp into legal cannabis products until cannabis and hemp cultivation are regulated equally as agriculture. More needs to be done to resolve this issue.

The proposed TA aims to create market parity between hemp and cannabis products while maintaining significant regulatory disparities between hemp and cannabis agriculture. It also seems to fully permit the inclusion of hemp products into the cannabis supply chain, including the interstate import and export of these products. This lack of parity is expected to have a significant negative impact on small, licensed cannabis cultivators, further disadvantaging them in the market against hemp-derived producers who face significantly lighter regulatory burdens. This imbalance raises serious concerns.

The Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County opposes AB 2223 for these reasons.

Sincerely,

Maureen Mulheren, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly, 2nd District  
The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Senate, 14<sup>th</sup> District

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