

This letter is in response to your consideration to remove the Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance. I am strongly opposed to such an action. The Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance may not be perfect, but it does protect vast endemic stretches of invaluable Oak Woodlands by limiting the size of marijuana grows. Our county is known for its wild beauty, which certainly includes our Oak Woodlands, home to an incredible variety of animals, birds, insects and plants, all of which are imperiled because our climate is changing so quickly. This issue of the changing climate is also a major factor in the profound danger we face from wildfires. Allowing larger cannabis grows without enforcing the present Ordinance impacts our vital water supply, critical open space and immensely important wild flora and fauna.

Legitimate small growers with permits are following the Ordinance and, largely, being lawful. Removing their protection and, more importantly, the protection of the rangelands that large scale growers would destroy is beyond irresponsible. I am surprised that the Board of Supervisors is even considering such an action. Suggesting that the County's Planning and Building Dept. take responsibility for monitoring these large scale operations is folly and suggests that you are ignoring the progress made so far and, instead, prefer to wantonly endanger our wild lands. Is that the legacy you want? Please do the right thing and leave the Ordinance as is or carefully consider, with plenty of public comment notice, an even stronger Ordinance to protect our precious rangelands, irreplaceable Oaks and our beautiful and healthy county environment.

Eileen Mitro