



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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February 2, 2024

The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 820 (Alvarado-Gil): Cannabis Enforcement, Seizure of Property

Dear Senator Alvarado-Gil,

On behalf of Mendocino County, we support SB 820, which adapts the asset forfeiture provisions currently applicable to the unlicensed manufacturing of alcoholic beverages (i.e., moonshining) to cover unlicensed commercial cannabis activities.

It is critical to ensure that the limited resources used to enforce against unlicensed cannabis operations are impactful. The reality, unfortunately, is that illicit cannabis operations can recover following enforcement actions quickly. State and local enforcement efforts have minimal impact without addressing the underlying infrastructure that enables these illegal operations to bounce back.

SB 820 would bolster enforcement efforts against illicit cannabis operations by authorizing the removal of specific underlying infrastructure – such as specialized cultivation and manufacturing equipment – used for unlicensed cannabis activities. SB 820 as written applies to operations harvesting, drying or processing more than ‘1,000 living cannabis plants’. This bill allows law enforcement to disrupt the financial resources of unlicensed conspirators that enable illegal cannabis operations to operate.

SB 820 will also bolster safe access to the cannabis market by targeting enforcement against unlawful operators that undermine the legal marketplace and jeopardize the public's health and safety. In addition, SB 820 would invest enforcement proceeds in the Cannabis Control Fund to support equity programs. It's vital to not only shut down bad actors but to support licensed cannabis businesses that enhance reliable access to regulated, tested cannabis in the legal market.

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For these reasons, Mendocino County supports SB 820 (Alvarado-Gil) and encourages your "aye" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maureen Mulheren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Maureen Mulheren, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Mike McGuire, 2nd District