



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

February 7, 2021

Re: **Item 5i on 2/9/2021** - Discussion and Possible Action Including Review, Adoption, Amendment, Consideration or Ratification of Legislation Pursuant to the Adopted Legislative Platform (*Sponsor: Executive Office*)

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Honorable Supervisors,

MCA appreciates and supports the inclusion of a robust set of cannabis-related legislative priorities included in the Draft 2021 Legislative Platform. The bold acknowledgment of Mendocino County as a pre-eminent producer of cannabis products, and home to multi-generational cultivators, manufacturers, and other industry participants, is exciting.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting held on January 3, 2021, we presented the below suggestions as additions to the County's 2021 Legislative Platform. Response from the Board was unequivocal support for the proposals, and we sincerely hope that they will be added to the official Platform.

**Cannabis as Agriculture**

- *Advocate for the redesignation of cannabis as an agricultural crop, and cannabis cultivation, on-farm drying, processing, and packaging as an agricultural activity, in the CA Food and Agriculture Code, rather than its current designation as an agricultural product in the Business and Professions Code.*

**Disaster and Grant Relief**

- *Advocate for the inclusion of licensed cannabis businesses in access to disaster relief and grant programs made available by the State to non-cannabis businesses.*

**Provisional License Extension and CEQA Compliance**

- *Advocate for a statutory extension of cannabis provisional licenses, with an adequate timeline to ensure necessary policy reforms are implemented, allowing cannabis applicants to complete local permitting and state environmental requirements.*

**Agency Consolidation and Regulatory Streamlining**

- *Advocate for the removal of barriers to regulatory entry for the rural legacy producing community, including: eliminating duplicative licensing requirements; reforming incongruous regulations; supporting realistic compliance timelines, reducing the cost of compliance and licensing.*

**Cannabis Appellations Program (CAP)**

- *Advocate for the implementation of a world-class, legally sound cannabis appellations program premised on terroir-based causal link products as per the [Origins Council recommendations](#) to CDFA regarding CAP regulations.*
- *Advocate for CDFA to develop educational materials and guidelines to support producing communities interested in petitioning for appellations.*
- *Advocate for the promulgation of comprehensive labeling requirements for all cannabis geographical indications, including county of origin, city of origin, and appellation of origin designation.*

**Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations**

- *Advocate for parity between cannabis and ag crops within the development of the CA Board of Forestry Fire Safe Road regulations.*

**Cannabis/Hemp Land Use and Product Testing Standards**

- *Advocate for the alignment of land use, pesticide, and product testing standards for Hemp produced for human consumption with current cannabis standards.*

**Cannabis Tax Restructuring**

- *Advocate for the restructuring of state cannabis taxes to support regulatory viability for rural legacy producing communities, and to increase consumer access to regulated cannabis products.*

**Interstate Commerce and Federal Cannabis Policy Reform**

- *Advocate for the formation of an interstate compact regulating commerce in cannabis between established producer states and legalizing consumer states, and federal congressional approval of such a compact. (Note: The U.S. Constitution recognizes these agreements.)*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and recommendations. We appreciate your careful consideration of the points we have raised.

Sincerely,

Mendocino Cannabis Alliance