



Ukiah – Lakeport – Middletown – Petaluma - Hidden Valley Lake

June 30, 2020

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am reaching out to you today as a member of the Mendocino business community and a long-term resident. I am a third-generation resident with five generations of my family currently living and caring about the future of this place. Mendocino is a wonderful county with an abundance of natural resources. Many of our long-time business economies were built around these resources, such as timber, wine, ranching and food farming. These sectors are held up as economic benefits to the county and care is taken to nurture and support their economic development and growth. But there is another Mendocino resource that could add to the economic value of the county in numerous ways, cannabis.

Unfortunately, the current cannabis regulations seem to be anti-business and present no opportunity for Mendocino to take advantage of this resource. Limits on the size of cultivation and a licensing process with more barriers than pathways have resulted in a local industry with stunted growth and limited room for expansion. A simplified licensing system would help the county reach its full potential.

County staff are currently working on a new framework for cannabis cultivation licensing in Mendocino. This new proposal seeks to eliminate the burdensome process of the current licensing program by shifting the program into a Land Use framework. The state has already established guidelines for the inspecting of cannabis cultivation sites and a process for ensuring compliant operations. This proposed change would allow the county to focus on the location of the cultivation while letting the state oversee the cultivation operations themselves. This approach would not only greatly expedite the process for issuing licenses, it should do it at a lower cost and it would also allow the county to focus on enforcement with regards to cultivation on public lands and in ways that are environmentally harmful.

I would like to see the cannabis program in the county move forward in a productive way that will support economic growth and job creation. Therefore, I support this proposed move into a land use framework.

Sincerely,

Jim Mayfield
Owner