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**Date:** 4/22/2019 7:56 PM  
**Subject:** Cannabis Fees

Dear Board

I was outraged when I saw the chart on the proposed fees. I would be there to publicly speak against this if I did not have to get my Mom on a plane to fly my dad's Body back to Virginia.

I know the government is not a business but where does the buck stop? We have a Board and a County CEO that are responsible for running the county on budget and efficiently. I have been attending meetings for three years and have watched this drag on with LOTS of Industry comments and a bit of listening. I feel that interest has fallen off but that is because we were not able to come up with an ordinance that works. This from point of view was going to be difficult from day one as there was no advisory committee. There was also a strong push back from the public, who through legal was the same as the black market.

A reduction in Cannabis Crime does not sell newspapers or create a lot of public support

We also can't forget we had a disrupted BOS for quite a bit of this process. So as a result of continuing to try, AND, also spending money we are in a big HOLE. What did I continually present to you in comments?

Track and Trace?

HIGH PAID PROGRAM MANAGER (when we did not have an established program 100K plus)

Payout to Manager Kelly for retirement?

Recruiting Program Manager 10K?

Payout to a Recruited Ag commissioner?

OPT IN/ OPT OUT ( Which seems only the Op OUT people are happy )

With my rough calculations, this would have saved the county \$300K and my advice was free. My time to research would have cost the County \$0. I have not been the only voice on this

The program has been in Three different Departments in Three years, There is no way to upload all documents online so they don't get lost. But the Cannabis program participants have to cover this cost, What Manager was responsible for this? Not the Cultivators

After starting the AP permit process and stating that the BOS was eliminating the requirement B&P was burning through county time and MY money I got a \$43.00 refund from my AP payment. REALLY, I pointed out the work was not needed 2 weeks after I paid. Ironically to Avoid a fee increase.. BUT to add insult to this my permit was held up based on no site plan which was submitted for the AP. This is driving me close to pulling the plug, as fees to entry continue to climb. This is not the only experience like this

We spent countless hours talking about hoop housed when if you would have just said it's ag we would have a lot more income from the program. Or better yet just have a simple registration fee of \$X per hoop.

I suggested an incubator program or a tired program where ADA and all regs kick in at say 3 employees not the first. With all the regulations you need a hand with things. By not allowing this you are dooming the really small farmer. For those of you with an Ag background, how would your have family survived if you could only help the family when you were 21?

I believe the proper approach is to find out HOW we got here, not penalizing those who came forward.

A wise person once told me that " Government is good at Regulating those who walk through the front door"

Would you PLEASE look at will higher fees and determine will it bring in more compliance or less. If it brings in less it will future the hole the program is in. We know from the Economic report the County is hemorrhaging money due to the decrease in Canna Dallar's coming in.

The sad part is those who fought hard for greater limitations, are partially responsible for the lack of participation, are they not somewhat responsible for the reduction to the county coffers? Why must the Cannabis cultivator bere this brunt alone? I would like an explanation and will ask for one at the very Next BOS meeting and public comments. I will ask this question on Social media. I will ask this quest to as many Mendocino residents I can, Because a Comment does not always get an Answer at a BOS meeting.

IF you get to this point you have to realize I want a program that works for both the County and Cultivators. It's frustrating as more money keeps getting spent. That I agree with, I just see a different solution

Ron Edwards  
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