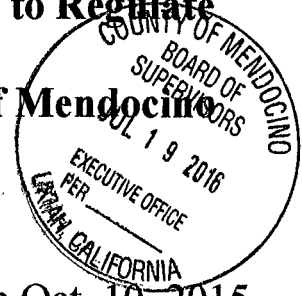


Statement to the Board of Supervisors re Ordinance to Regulate Medical Cannabis

**Respectfully submitted by Jude Thilman, resident of Mendocino County and cannabis industry entrepreneur
July 19, 2016**



From MMRSA, signed into state law by Gov. Brown on Oct. 10, 2015 and launched as of Jan 1, 2016, with Jan. 1, 2018 the target date for accepting applications for state licenses:

Section 19320 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read: **19320.** (a) Licensing authorities administering this chapter may issue state licenses only to qualified applicants engaging in commercial cannabis activity pursuant to this chapter. Upon the date of implementation of regulations by the licensing authority, no person shall engage in commercial cannabis activity without possessing both a state license and a local permit, license, or other authorization. A licensee shall not commence activity under the authority of a state license until the applicant has obtained, in addition to the state license, a license or permit from the local jurisdiction in which he or she proposes to operate, following the requirements of the applicable local ordinance.

While Mendocino County has been struggling to come up with a fair regulatory ordinance for cannabis cultivation – and I thank you for those efforts – the rest of us – dispensaries, medicine manufacturers, health care providers, transporters & distributors, and above all patients who rely on cannabis medicine for a myriad of conditions - we are still holding our breath wondering if we will be protected by the county with permits to finally officially legalize our work – and then be able to obtain the state license that we will need to continue what we do.

If you fail to pass an ordinance that covers every part of the cannabis industry, imagine how you will promote the continued existence of an underground black market, with the public safety issues inherent in that situation.

Medical cannabis cultivators will need to sell their raw materials to manufacturers and dispensaries outside the county, with the transport issues inherent in that – massive amounts of legally grown cannabis heading down 101. Or they may choose to take the easier route and sell to black market buyers who will come pick it up and take it who knows where to sell to who knows who?

Our skilled herbalists, tincture, oil, salve, lotion, -- infused product makers will be hiding their facilities underground, looking over their shoulders since they can't get a state license because they don't have a permit. Or they will leave the county – a huge loss of a core part of Mendocino's industry and culture.

Patients who increasingly turning to non-smokeable medicines will not have access to them locally and will have to travel a good distance to obtain what they have had for years here in Mendocino. And this includes the canna tourism patients who come to Mendocino because of our reputation for organic, pure and effective herbal medicines made from cannabis.

This is a drop in the bucket in terms of the negative repercussions of not having a permit system for all levels of our industry. Please don't let this opportunity get away – and turn into a nightmare.

Thank you.