

>>> Hezekiah Allen <hezekiah@cagrowers.org> 7/17/2016 3:15 PM >>>

Respected Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

The California Growers Association announced support for the Mendocino County Heritage Initiative on Saturday July 16, 2016. While the initiative is not perfect, we think it is the best option for Mendocino County going forward.

The drafters of the initiative wisely authorized your board to amend the policies in the ordinance. However, you must wait 1 year to make changes. We think that this timeline is balanced: providing much needed regulatory certainty for business owners seeking relief, while allowing for flexibility and change over time.

There are certainly policies in the Heritage Initiative that will need to be changed over time. We know that good public policy comes from hard work and collaboration. We are committed to working collaboratively with you and all stakeholders to identify problems and develop solutions.

However, the highest priority at this time is to implement state law and regulate cannabis. With sustained leadership from the state legislature, the state government is gearing up for a massive regulatory effort aimed at protecting public safety and natural resources. Regulation also provides significant promise for our local economy.

The Mendocino Heritage Initiative is consistent with state law and provides for flexibility as public opinion and public policy continue to evolve. Still the initiative will solve problems by allowing local farmers and business owners to come into the light and start the process of getting licensed under newly enacted state law. The initiative is a gateway to compliance. However, it all depends on local permits.

We strongly encourage your board to adopt the proposal at the August 2 meeting. Enacting the initiative immediately will give Mendocino a head start on solving problems.

Respectfully,

Hezekiah D. Allen, Executive Director

Casey O'Neill, Board of Directors

Taylor Blake, Board of Directors