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Date: 10/2/2017 7:15 PM
Subject: Comments Regarding Cannabis Facilities Code

TO: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Casey O'Neill, HappyDay Farms, Vice-Chair California Growers Association, Acting Chair MCGA

Comments on Proposed Cannabis Facilities Ordinance

We appreciate the time and effort that has gone into crafting this process. Attached to this letter is the comment letter that was sent to the Planning Commission on September 5th. The following are specific suggestions for revision to the ordinance:

Provisional Licenses: In order for Mendocino to be competitive in a rapidly shifting cannabis marketplace, it is of utmost importance that Provisional Licenses be available by the end of November so that cannabis businesses can access the state Temporary License program that will begin in December.

Expanded Zoning: We support the other comments submitted in regards to expanded zoning inclusions for types of light manufacturing and processing. We recognize that this may require a General Plan Amendment, but we are hopeful of being able to avoid such a lengthy process.

Coastal Zoning: We are hopeful that a solution can be reached to allow coastal businesses to participate, and we support the comments submitted by other community members in that regard.

Microbusiness License/Non-Cultivation Permits as an Ancillary Use to Cultivation: It is important that we get the Microbusiness License right. This is an opportunity created by the State to help small businesses (as measured by 10,000 sq feet or less canopy) compete in the marketplace. A provision to allow non-cultivation activities like light manufacturing, on-site consumption with limited retail and distribution to be Ancillary Uses for farms would help Mendocino farmers in a dramatic way.

Administrative Permits/Avoiding Backlog and Staff Overwork: There is concern that the ordinance would create a backlog of Use Permits that would slow down the overall process. It would be good to go to an Administrative Permit level of review for things like Processing in RL, FL and TPZ, as well as to look at other opportunities in the proposed Zoning Chart to move away from Use Permits.

Processing On Farm: The more flexibility we can build into the program, the better. It would make sense to allow mobile processing units and storage containers to be used for on-farm processing. It would also make sense to allow use of kitchen space or other home space for limited amounts of trimming and home manufacturing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this process. It has been a long journey and your work is much appreciated!

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