

March 23, 2020

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

Thank you for your especially hard work during this COVID-19 crisis. It is an all hands on deck moment in time, incomparable to any the world may have seen in at least 100 years, and we appreciate your service and commitment to your community.

Regarding the Agenda item 5b Hemp Pilot Program, to put it simply:

This is NOT the time for this discussion!

We support the CCAG letter & the MCA memo 100%...

This ordinance as written does not have enough restrictions. We cannot see how it will be possible to enforce it. It is opening a can of worms that cannot be closed if it doesn't work.

Hemp & cannabis are the same plant & there is much research happening now all over the country from Kentucky to Oregon and as close a Sonoma and Lake Counties, about potential endangerment of wind drift from hemp to the cannabis plants. This is related to pollination & also to chemical pesticides. The preliminary results prove there are many variables & many obstacles.

It is VERY alarming to see no maximum size to the hemp grow specified, especially with all the limits places on cannabis farms. How will this relate to the CEQA issues Mendocino is already having? Where are the protections in the hemp program for the quality cannabis that IS rigorously tested by law for contaminants that would be allowed in hemp? It's quite possible hemp could contaminate the medical cannabis & render local farms unable to do anything to save their crop. If anything, hemp should be treated exactly like cannabis in Mendocino County.

The ethical thing for the Board of Supervisors to do here should be instead to extend the Hemp Moratorium for another year. We recommend that the county ban hemp cultivation in our county at this time because there is not enough protections in place to guarantee viability for both hemp and

cannabis producers to co-exist. We hope at the very least, you delay the decision. Thank you for awaiting for the science.

Sincerely, Laura & Marty Clein