

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a cannabis farmer I am concerned about the cross pollination and pesticide drift of cannabis from hemp farmers. In Oregon, Washington, and Colorado this has become a big issue, with court cases piling up.

Hemp like cannabis is a new industry and both crops suffer from unstabilized genetics. So the purchase of certified feminized seeds is not an option. Like cannabis, it too is going through a time consuming transition with no guarantee on what the outcome will be.

Oregon has documented a 15 mile pollen drift in 3 different directions from an offending farmer who had no personal sense of responsibility for other farmers' crops. Since hemp cannot be used in food it will not be tested with the same scrutiny as cannabis, which brings up another issue of pesticide drift because both hemp and cannabis share the same pests, but do not share the same testing requirements. So Hemp will be able to use inexpensive and effective pesticides that can taint cannabis and make it no longer merchandisable in the flower market. In California, pesticide drift has been documented at a distance up to 30 miles. Lets not forget all the conflict between farmers in other states are in a regulatory system that has never tested at the parts per billion level like cannabis does today in California.

Due to so much conflict and litigation, states are working on a 3rd party system to inspect and destroy offending crops. We anticipate more litigation in California due to our stricter testing standards. Cross pollination and pesticide drift outside of the cannabis and hemp industry has become increasingly problematic due to the demand for higher quality and safer food. We are experiencing some major shifts for the better when it comes to consumer safety and land practices in the U.S. Where we stand today in this transition is not where we will be in 5 years. The issues we are addressing today between cannabis and hemp are the same issues we will be addressing in the near future with all crops.

I am asking you to take into consideration the need for strict regulations, clearly defined protocols and a mechanism for accountability in regards to hemp production in Mendocino county.

Kind regards

David King
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