

Dear Supervisors,

We are a county where the life blood of the economy is cannabis. Hemp is CBD cannabis. Its tragic as a cannabis farmer in Covelo that my life isn't easier and that all regulatory hurdles have been stacked against me. I was an original 9.31 farmer riding around with Randy Johnson in my car. I've jumped through every hoop trying to stay afloat, permits, licenses, finger prints, water board, bonds, ag dept, mendo bldg and planning dept, and permits, ..everything has been over reaching and punitive. Nothing has been easy. We've had no confidence going forward and its so tough to plan in a fast changing environment when we don't know what to expect. Yet we thrive despite the fact that I moved here 15 years ago when Mendocino was the most liberal of counties and you could grow 25 plants and now were hand-cuffed to allow a quarter of what the state allows and somehow I have to compete with surrounding counties that are allowing acres. Phase 1 has been a failure, and now we look to Phase 3 and Hemp to save Mendocino finances? I'm not sure how were talking suddenly about 10% of our acreage to appease the corps and hemp production? Did we give up on Phase 1?

Any bare modicum of research shows that hemp is the same plant as cannabis and it will seed every licensed farm atleast 10-15 miles away, and some say 20 - 40 miles. We should have buffer zones around every licensed cannabis farm that hemp can't be grown, which effectively, bans the entire county. WERE PLAYING WITH FIRE!

Plus its totally naive to think that 5 hemp farms are going to compete with the 5000 acre kentucky hemp farm. The economics don't pencil out. Has anyone considered the economics of Hemp??? Currently, there is way more supply than demand so farmers are dumping or composting their product. In a mountainous county located in the breadbasket of cannabis why are we even discussing a cannabis plant called hemp that gets a free pass on all the regulations that cannabis has to abide by, its silly and makes us cannabis farmers feel like were sold a lie.

Literally none of this makes sense. We want an opt out zone in Round Valley so the native licensed Cannabis industry isn't ruined. Even more than the lack of CEQA and every other reg that is a threat to our business despite our best efforts to succeed.

Give us a break. Retire Hemp. Retire Phase 3 except for Phase 1's that want to upgrade. My AG LAND 30 acres wants to grow more than a postage stamp container garden, and I can't compete or stay in business when surrounding counties are allowing multiple acres.. I mean what is the discrepancy. I have to tell my wife and kids that we were sold a lie, and that we were the guinea

pigs and we messed up, that life isn't fair, and politics is corrupt. Good on Williams and Haschek for trying to resurrect the cannabis program.

I want to be in the pilot program. Why wasn't I chosen. I've been signed up for 8 years?, paying every fee. I knew growing in the mountains was going to be prohibitively expensive so I bought AG land in the valley of Covelo. I have no sensitive species, I get my water from a well, I have unlimited flat land with no water ways, my LSA says I'M EXEMPT!!! Why can't I get an annual???? PLEASE HELP ME!!!!

Please tell me something honest that I can tell to my wife and kids why this didn't work out despite my best efforts and some serious questions about our county leadership and where their priorities/alliances lie - no pun intended.

Please LORD help my family and our business stay afloat, WE BELIEVE IN YOU!!

Joshua Artman