

Honorable Supervisors, Thank you for this opportunity to present my opinion in this matter. I am a resident of Covelo Core. I have a provisional cottage tier 1 outdoor cultivation license. I am opposed to the County giving permits to grow hemp, and here are my reasons.

- 1) Because any such activity near me has a good chance of ruining my crop each year, by pollinating my plants. There has been much discussion about this, but in your last meeting, I did not see you, or at least some of you to be concerned about this. The distance of the danger remains unclear, but I would think wind blown pollen could easily travel miles. I would hope that you would make a distance rule of at least 10-15 miles from a licensed outdoor cannabis grower.
- 2) If hemp growers were to use feminized seed, this would be a GMO product which is prohibited in Mendocino County agriculture.
- 3) I understand that the permitting of hemp, which is a federally recognized agricultural crop, would be simpler than the licensing of cannabis, which while completely legal in California and other states, remains a federally designated Schedule One drug. I fail to see, however, why the permitting of hemp should not follow the strict environmental regulations that all of the cannabis permit holders have to follow. The use of water, in particular, should come under scrutiny, as well as run off, pesticide and herbicides, fertilizers and additives use, and the effect of such grows on wildlife and the environment.
- 4) On the topic of permits, I fail to understand how the County can feel entirely comfortable to open up this completely new set of permits, when you have failed to adequately address the needs of cannabis applicants and license holders in the permitting process. You constantly tell us that you do not have adequate staffing to get us to our annual state permits, and yet you feel fine about plunging forward with a whole new program.

In case you feel free to ignore my and other growers' opposition to this idea, here are some requirements I would like to see placed in the hemp ordinance.

- 1) Give neighborhoods the ability to opt-out or in to having hemp in their areas.
- 2) Place a distance requirement from licensed cannabis farms. 10-15 miles might be adequate.
- 3) Require that hemp farms be surety bonded against damages to nearby cannabis farms. If they damage a crop, they buy it at market value.
- 4) Create an enforcement mechanism to check on violations and complaints.
- 5) Exclude Round Valley and its surrounding properties from this permit.

Thank you for reading this. If you did. Sincerely, Tekla Broz, North Fork Garden Society, Covelo