

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing ahead of tomorrow's meeting, in support of both MCA and CCAG's memos regarding the potential hemp pilot program in Mendocino County. As a cannabis cultivator who has been in the licensing program since the beginning, I am shocked, and frankly, appalled, that the county would consider approving a hemp pilot program at this time.

The reasons for this are twofold.

First, Mendocino County has struggled to maintain the cannabis licensing program since its inception. Cultivators who are currently in the program face looming loss of licensing at a state level if the county cannot come up with a majority serving solution to our current state CEQA requirements. Additionally, county staff have repeatedly stated that they do not have the time or people power to process the cannabis cultivation applications or run the cannabis program in a functional capacity.

Yet, the Board seeks at this time to add a hemp pilot program that they surely will not have the time, capacity, knowledge or people power to manage? Mendocino County is a historic cannabis cultivation region. The Board would be wise to focus their efforts on assisting the cultivators currently lingering in the purgatory of Phase 1 permitting in gaining their county and state licenses, instead of initiating a hemp pilot program that will require additional time and effort to develop and monitor. Who will develop this program? Who will monitor it? Who will inspect the hemp sites and with what frequency? The county cannot adequately inspect and monitor those currently in the cannabis cultivation program, nor help us obtain our full state and county licenses. How will Mendocino County do so for those in the hemp pilot program?

Which leads me to my second point, regarding the potential for mass pollination events which would decimate the cannabis cultivators in Mendocino County. Google "hemp mass pollination events" and you will see all you need to know about the potential for disaster. Pollen can travel up to 30 miles. How will the county ensure that those in the hemp pilot program will be using only feminized clones? Where will these feminized clones come from? Will someone be out in the field, inspecting each flower weekly, for signs of hermaphroditic flowers? I ask, because as someone who has been cultivating cannabis for a decade, I know that feminized clones can "herm" just like seed plants can. One hermaphroditic male cannabis flower can produce up to 350,000 pollen grains. Each grain has the potential to produce one seed. Will those in the hemp pilot program be bonded, by insurance companies ready to pay hundreds of thousands, or possibly millions, of dollars to the cannabis cultivators whose crops they will inevitably ruin? A single dried cannabis bud is considered "seeded" if it contains a mere 1-2 seeds.

The board needs to embrace Mendocino County's identity as a historic region of small scale cannabis cultivation, and create policy accordingly. Policy that strongly supports small scale cannabis cultivation will ensure the economic success of our county for generations to come, while maintaining its authentic identity and cultural community. Why don't those who built the cannabis industry here, at great personal peril, and poured revenue into the local economy for decades deserve every chance to not only survive, but to thrive?

Sincerely,
Jennifer Procacci
Co Owner & Operator
WildLand Cannabis