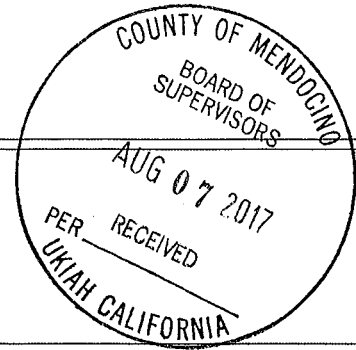


**Board of Supervisors - Fwd: Cannabis Ordinance Amendment**

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**From:** Nicole French  
**To:** Board of Supervisors  
**Date:** 8/7/2017 3:13 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Cannabis Ordinance Amendment

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>>> Joshua Keats <joshuakeats@artifactnursery.com> 8/4/2017 12:50 PM >>>

To the Mendocino county Board of Supervisors and administrative staff:

This letter is to convey the serious devastation to our community that would be result of allowing a neighbor on a private road to block the permitting of an otherwise compliant cannabis farm.

My wife and I are owners of Artifact Nursery, a tax paying permitted cannabis plant nursery in laytonville, as well as a permitted flower farm on a private road. I was permitted through the 9.31 program and have a pending permit under the new Ag Department program. My family and I operate a small livestock ranching operation in addition to our legal cannabis cultivation. We live rurally on twenty acres that is accessed by a private road. We get along well with our neighbors, despite the fact that some of them do not like the new legalization regulations.

The legalization regulations have allowed me to hire hard working local people, at good wages, with benefits. We have paid a large sum of taxes directly to Mendocino County - just this year to date for 2017 has been over \$42,000.

The benefits we - and legal cannabis farming - bring to the community are too numerous to convey in this short letter, but the core is this:

**High paying jobs:** we start our employees at \$18/hr. Management salaries range from \$55k/year to over \$84k/yr; plus health insurance and other benefits.

**Environmental stewardship:** our farm and nursery strictly comply with NCRWB standards for cultivation.

**Professional projects and revenue to local engineers and contractors:**

Our development is done with oversight from local engineers (LACO, Ruff Architects) and by local contractors (Wall Construction, Luccetti Excavating, Fortner Excavation, All Phase Electrical).

**Major tax revenue for Mendocino county:** if you support us and allow our business to grow, the \$42,000 we have paid this year could easily become \$420,000 within a couple years time

The purpose of this letter is to clearly explain what you - and our county - would be losing by allowing a neighbor to deny a permit to a compliant farm and farmer who has worked diligently to abide by all the rules set forth thus far by the board.

**MY FARM IS LOCATED ON A PRIVATE ROAD WITH NEIGHBORS THAT ARE ANTI-LEGAL CANNABIS.**

My farm, my business would cease to exist. I would have to lay off 30 well paid, well treated, hard working mendocino county local employees.

All the time and investment I have made in my property to comply with your program would be lost. I would be financially devastated.

If you value the revenue and jobs generated by the cannabis farmers in our county - especially the smaller cannabis farmers, those that

cannot afford \$5 million dollar pieces of industrial land on the 101 -  
**PLEASE VOTE AGAINST AMENDING THE ORDINANCE.**

To allow a neighbor to deny a permit simply because they don't like  
cannabis is not reasonable, and is bad for the county.

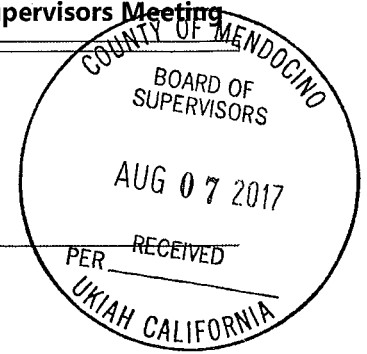
Thank you for you time

Sincerely,  
Joshua Keats,  
Owner, Artifact Nursery  
707-841-6023

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**Board of Supervisors - Fwd: Covelo Resident Unable to Attend Today's Board of Supervisors Meeting**

**From:** Nicole French  
**To:** Board of Supervisors  
**Date:** 8/7/2017 3:14 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Covelo Resident Unable to Attend Today's Board of Supervisors Meeting



>>> Rio Cardone <riocardone@gmail.com> 8/7/2017 9:45 AM >>>

Good Morning Ms. Croskey and honorable members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am unable to attend today's public meetings so I am writing on behalf of myself and my fellow Covelo small farmers. Very simply, I'd like it to be known that I support the assertion of my colleges that Covelo (Round Valley) continues to be overlooked by this regulation process. Furthermore, I support the call for creating an overlay for the Round Valley/Covelo area in order to better understand the myriad issues that are simply not being adequately addressed by the Board of Supervisors, the County and the State regulators.

I do appreciate how big of a job this is for the county and I support sensible regulation of cannabis. However, I would be remiss if I didn't try and articulate how frustrating this process is and has been over the past three years. Again I support sensible regulation and as a person who was born and raised in this community I appreciate that you are trying to limit the influx of "big money" out of area growers. I also agree that (over time) we should strive to improve our facilities and infrastructure in order to continue to provide the best medical cannabis in the state, which is what we are known for and what you, our elected officials, should be helping preserve.

Currently, after several trips to the Ag Department and thousands in legal advice I still don't have a permit, nor do I know if my garden will be deemed legal based on all the unknowns currently facing us. For example, no one can tell us if we are in or out of compliance if we don't have a permitted, commercial building with a food grade processing area and a ADA certified bathroom. While we are stressing over this unknown we are trying to grow this medicine in an increasingly monoculture environment, which brings many variables and problems and if that's not enough we have to take entire days off to do our administrative work in Ukiah since we receive no services in our community. Not only does this cost us time but also money since we must pay others to do our chores and also it costs money to make the 4 hour round trip. This is just but one example of how wonky this process is and how difficult it has become to do this job. Someone within your board must begin to understand that this isn't just our problem but yours as well. Think about it. The economy of the area is dominated by this enterprise. Many of use would love to make it a win-win situation; however, in order for that to happen those of us who chose to comply should not continually be heaped in with those that chose not to. I was disheartened recently at my Ag Department meeting when I was forced to pay more for my permit, was given another sizable application to complete (Fish and Game), despite being told that it did not and would not apply to me, and witnessing many folks in the offices seemingly laughing at the ridiculousness of the process (and possibly the additional time and expense levied on me). In fact it seemed that there was contempt for us that were trying to do the "right thing."

Finally, I would simply plead for the board to be honest with us. I was told, after paying 10,000\$ to do the 9.31 program last season that I'd be in good standing and be part of a much simpler process this year since I already went through a bunch of hoops. Well here we are, thousands more spent on lawyers and consultants, many hours spent trying to satisfy many more expectations and still no closer to compliance and

with many, many doubts about my status. I hope that you will please represent me, a voter and a grower, the way you should and remember that your economy is going to be impacted by your decisions as much as mine will be. Please do the right thing and listen to the people of the outlying areas that are simply trying to transition in this uncertain time and who cannot afford to be continually manipulated and lied to. Our community wants a sensible regulatory process and while it may take some time we need you to help us create a more positive and realistic process that doesn't bring us back to the draconian solutions typically used in a drug war, which unfortunately is what it appears is happening now.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Rio Cardone

Owner Covelo Son Grown, LLC