

From: "Jeremy Pope" <jeremypope@mail.com >
To: <bos@co.mendocino.ca.us>
Date: 8/7/2017 9:17 PM
Subject: Letter for Cannabis BOS meeting 8/8/2017

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing as a local small business owner and concerned citizen of Mendocino County, regarding the decision to amend the Cannabis Cultivation Program and retroactively change the effective date of tree removal prohibition. It was clear at the time of the Coalition Letter that there was an agreement and that the prohibition date would be the date the ordinance was passed. To now arbitrarily change the date to January 1, 2016, is to break good faith with those of us that have acted and invested based upon a desire to understand and follow the rules as they are implemented.

Those of us that have committed to becoming regulated and being part of the legal cultivation of cannabis will have our businesses destroyed despite following every single law and regulation up until now. I have invested my life savings into this business and have spent so much money on being compliant with what all of us in the program believed were the rules.

If a farmer in good faith has followed the rules and obtained a Cal Fire permit for a less than three acre conversion and it has been signed off prior to the passage of the ordinance, and proceeds after being told it was permissible under the rules of the ordinance, then it is extremely unjust and unfair to disqualify them with a retroactive date change.

If the board is insistent on changing the effective date of tree removal prohibition, there should - at the very least - be a compromise to exempt industrial zoned parcels as industrial parcels are not zoned for timber production. Farmers and struggling small business owners who are now stuck with unusable parcels for the program will need suitable, industrial parcels to transfer their operations to. It is unfair and wrong to punish someone who has followed every rule in the program, worked hard and paid to remain compliant, by disqualifying them from the program by retroactively changing an effective date.

I respectfully ask you to please reconsider this change and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Pope