

Greeting and salutations members of the board,

My name is Blair Phillips, I am a small farmer in Willits. I bought a property that I had been leasing for two years, three years ago in a rangeland ag. I had been in the county ten years prior to that. The area is not even suitable for rangeland as it is forested with out any pasture. This year I enlarged my growing site to 10,000 square feet as I was told that the county would not allow applicants to expand after this year. As the only one responsible for the work related to tend the plants I work with it means working from the time I wake up till the time I go to sleep minus eating. I started growing cannabis specifically to produce a top quality cannabis for my fathers cancer problems. When prop 64 passed along with proposed county acceptance of recreational it seemed like a good idea to try to make some profit from what has always been a non profit venture. So far this is proving to have way more costs than benefits. The reasons for such being many.

- Not knowing the for profit market
- Red tape, permits fees, and upcoming taxes
- Unforeseen costs with the building department, and water board.
- Lawyer fees
- A massive work load and mental stress that is increased by the above unknowns/known's

Now that you have a little more back ground on me, I am writing you to request:

- 1) you make a non-op provision for the zoning where you are allowing cannabis cultivation due to prior cultivation only as long as we continue to grow. (the same way as if we have a vehicle we would not be using for some time we can keep it in the system) It has been a lot of extra time and money to hang in the unknowns of the ever-changing ordinances and stay current with your demands. To have all this taken away if I need to take a season off for any reason (health, other work I need to focus on, a break, state of finances, family emergency, etc) and would loose my ability to ever grow cannabis on my property is unjust and a major loss of investments in info structure and legal compliance work. Please make a non-op permit for people like me whom are struggling to live a simple life that keeps the environment and mental health of the property owner in mind.
- 2) Please consider the requirements for cultivators whom can not get fire insurance due to county fire zoning. Although I am less than a mile away from the cdf station at the top of the Willits grade and its constantly running helicopter(s) I can not insure anything I build for fire. Requiring costly builds I have never needed in all my time operating before is unjust when I cannot insure my investments.
- 3) Please see that taxes are based on actual sellable product and price of said product and not grow space. As a small beyond organic farmer, every year is different. The space may stay the same but the harvest can vary greatly due to weather, pests, disease, genetics, hermaphrodites, male plants, and improper storage. Please keep taxes based on product that makes it to market and keep in mind that the price of the market is varying with a downward trend. The few markets I have found time to connect with are offering a price that will leave me working at a loss. Adding space specific taxes that I am liable for no matter my harvest is unjust.

Thank you, Blair Phillips

Feel free to call me for any clarifications 707 272 2929