

ORIGINS COUNCIL



Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

November 11th, 2019

Re: Agenda Item 6C for 11-12-19 BOS meeting

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

Origins Council has reviewed the following agenda item and has provided specific comments below. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to engage in this process.

Agenda Item 6C

Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction to Staff to Develop a Cannabis Cultivation Amnesty Transition Pathway (Sponsor: Supervisor Williams)

Origins Council was founded in response to the urgent need for a unified advocacy voice for public policy impacting legacy cannabis producing regions across California.

Our organization's vision is for legacy cannabis producing regions to drive global sustainable development and regenerative agriculture through the regulated production, research and promotion of high quality craft cannabis and herbal medicine products produced in these regions.

Critical to this vision are public policies and programs that protect and promote these regions legacy cannabis farmers and medicine makers, including their genetic, cultural, natural and economic resources. Foundational to this is ensuring a viable pathway into regulation for the legacy farmer.

Origins Council supports the initiative to develop an Amnesty Transition Pathway for the legacy producers of Mendocino County, and urges the Mendocino Board of Supervisors to vote in support.

Origins Council is founded upon coalition and based on the formative work of the Mendocino Appellations Project and the regional trade associations that participated in the California Growers Association Appellations Committee over 2017 and 2018. We currently work with organizations representing producers in the following legacy producing regions: Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Sonoma, Monterrey, Santa Cruz, Calaveras and Nevada County.

In our engagement this year with state legislators, regulators, and the municipal governments of legacy producing regions, we have found there to be a tremendous amount of political will to work for creative solutions to address the many challenges facing small legacy producers in successfully transitioning into regulation.

Origins Council is committed to working with the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and Mendocino County government to build multi-regional support for this initiative in order to pursue related state advocacy as a coalition of legacy producing regions. We recognize that the benefit to developing an Amnesty Transition Pathway extends well beyond Mendocino County and holds the opportunity to support the socio-economic security of all legacy cannabis producing regions throughout California.

Thank you for your consideration,

Genine Coleman

Founder and Executive Director of Origins Council & Mendocino Appellations Project