I would like to express my gratitude to the Board for being willing to continue to improve the Cannabis Ordinance to ensure its success and positive impacts on cannabis community and Mendocino County as a whole. A program that is successful for the cultivator and the residents of Mendocino County will help our entire community to thrive economically as well as socially.

Recently on KZYX's The Cannabis Hour I listened to a VERY informative interview by two doctors that founded the Berkeley Cannabis Research Center Michael Polson and Hekia Bodwitch. For her doctorate, Hekia studied the effects of New Zealand's federal regulation of the commercial fisheries on the indigionous Maori people. The result of regulating of commercial fishing without consideration for the native Maori people was that it essentially killed a centuries old legacy fishery that the Maori that they relied on for their livelihood. Later, after the regulators realized their errors and tried to reverse their unintended consequences on the Maori, it was too late, the Maori's way of life and means of supporting themselves had been destroyed and have never been fully regained. Hekia saw parallels with the ongoing attempts to regulate the cannabis industry in California as she has family members in Southern Oregon who cultivate and thus, she decided to create the Berkeley Cannabis Research Center.

The KZYX interview summarizes a very institutional and intelligent study into the effects of current regulation on legacy growers and their communities. The study's respondents included 1/3 Unlicensed cultivators, 1/3 "In-process" cultivators, and 1/3 Licensed Cultivators.

After listening to the study's conclusions, I would have to say that they are VERY VERY accurate and reflect the sentiment felt amongst the cannabis community as a whole. The study takes into account the economic, social, emotional and physical benefits as well as costs of the current regulatory scheme.

I encourage you to listen to this interview as I am sure that you will find it informative. I assure you as a member of the cultivation community that it accurately reflects the challenges that we all are facing and opens a pathway for informed dialogue. The interviewees point out that the laws are still malleable and encourage active participation from all participants in the industry and it's regulators to work together to get this right. As I have stated before, the version of open market cannabis under 215 and pre-Prop64 was a multi-billion dollar industry that supported hundreds of thousands of Californians who made good livings. It would be a shame to allow misinformed regulation to strip this from a broad spectrum and large number of our State's citizens, consolidating the wealth into the hands of a few already wealthy individuals and corporations.

I applaud the Board's attempt to make this work, but I encourage the Board to maintain a focus on creating a system that keeps all of our small mom and pop as well as legacy cultivators legally in the game.

Cannabis Hour Interview 5-27-2020.mp3

I have included a downloadable MP3 file of the show as an attachment. You can also go to KZYX's Archive Page and type in The Cannabis Hour 5-27-2020. Here is a link to the page. https://jukebox.kzyx.org/

For more information and a to establish a direct contact with the The Berkeley Cannabis Research Center's website address is: https://crc.berkeley.edu/

Thank you.

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