

Dear Supervisors,

I am in support of keeping and enforcing the Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance (and making it work better).

Enforce the Ordinance. The cannabis ordinance has not been seriously or consistently enforced by the county code enforcement department. Illegal growers with no intention of becoming legal have been allowed to operate with little or no threat of enforcement. In addition, the county's cannabis unit staff has allowed hundreds of applicants, upon payment of the application fee, to operate prior to providing proof of compliance with critical provisions of the ordinance--provisions designed to protect the environment. (Or in other cases county staff has ignored fundamental provisions of the ordinance). This has led to ongoing and growing environmental damage.

If this ordinance is repealed, it would be replaced with the so-called "land-use proposal." This proposal would leave environmental protections to the discretion of the planning department cannabis unit, the same department that has largely failed to enforce the ordinance all along.

Instead of the proposal to expand cannabis into our last remaining open space, our rangelands, we could, instead, expand into our industrial and commercial zones where infrastructure and water resources are already developed. Cannabis growers truck in much of their soil and even at times their water, so having these activities in an industrial setting would be a much better fit than in our neighborhoods, or in our open spaces, and it would help reduce their carbon footprint. Electricity instead of generators would also greatly reduce the risk of fire.

If we hope to have a future on this fragile earth, protecting our fisheries, our wild life and wild lands, enforcing the laws already on the books should matter to all of us.

Bonnie Belt

Willits

belt.bonnie@gmail.com

www.BonnieBelt.com

[707-459-4792](tel:707-459-4792)