

July 15, 2020

From Gail Lawner

7200 3rd gate rd.

Willits, CA 95490

To Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

501 Low Gap rd.

Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance

Dear Chairman Haschak and Members of the Board,

I have been a tax paying resident of Mendocino county for 30 years. I specifically moved from Sonoma county to Mendocino county to enjoy the wild and scenic aspects, the peace and quiet, natural sounds from birds and native animals, incredibly star-filled night skies, exquisite views that extend for miles, and a feeling of security living among people who also exercise stewardship in protecting and honoring the cycles and systems of nature once so prevalent here.

These last few years I have witnessed the systematic degradation of the land all around me. There are plastic green houses dotting the once pristine hillsides I see all around my home. A neighboring parcel now has 2 lit up greenhouses that lessen the night sky around me and send generator noise to my home. I hear huge trucks driving down my dirt road to deliver water, soil and carry heavy equipment to level more land for growing cannabis. When I take my daily walks on this road, I have to endure the dust and disruption to my tranquility. More and

more people are driving on this road to work for neighbors growing cannabis. Some don't have any regard for the fact that it is a private road and more and more litter is strewn along the edges each year from these visitors and workers who don't live here. They are only here to grow cannabis. The neighborhood feeling has given way to a disregard for neighbors. Bright lights at night, cutting down trees, plastic greenhouses all impact the neighbors as well as the wild animals. These wild animals are whom I consider my neighbors and I have always tried to live in balance with them. Since I live in a rural residential zone I never dreamed I would have to hear big trucks going up and down our dirt roads regularly and see greenhouses covering more of the mountainsides. Isn't that more appropriate for industrial zoned areas?

Moreover, as if this wasn't bad enough. The only recourse I have is to file a complaint to the planning department. Since the regulation of cannabis, like building permits in the county, is complaint based, I have to endanger my safety by complaining about something my neighbor is doing. Without active enforcement in place for the growing of cannabis, the only hope of stopping this disregard for our natural environment and neighborhood is to file a complaint with the planning department. Some of us live alone and don't feel safe doing this. We fear repercussions from our neighbors and their comrades if we do so.

Where is the justice in this scenario? I have been paying my property taxes for 30 years. I have been respecting the natural environment and my neighbors right to enjoy their peace and quiet. I have always tried to cooperate with my neighbors and communicate directly with them. But things seem different now. People come just to grow their crop. They aren't showing any regard for those who truly live here. They simply want to grow their crop at any cost.

Many residents are counting on the cannabis ordinance to protect our county from being ravished by irresponsible cannabis farming. What message does it send to long time, law abiding residents like me if we throw out the cannabis ordinance? The message that would send to large-scale commercial growers is clear: We will take your money at any cost. The values of our rural lifestyles and the health and safety of our residents and environment are not a priority. This is deeply disturbing.

Seems to me you need to enforce the existing cannabis ordinance, not throw it out.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gail Lawner