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Mendocino County Supervisors
County of Mendocino
860 North Bush St., Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mendocino County Supervisors,

I am writing to ask you to preserve the Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance.

This ordinance was painstakingly crafted week after week, month after month by cannabis cultivators, environmentalists, residents of cannabis-affected neighborhoods, and many other citizens, along with you and/or your predecessors. It represents the will of the people of Mendocino County. To arbitrarily repeal it would be a violation of the public trust, a massive insult to those who contributed to its creation, and a threat to the health and safety of our wild lands and all their occupants, including humans.

We need a cannabis ordinance that protects our county's streams, soils, woodlands, wildlife, and human residents with one over-arching code that is consistent and enforceable—a code that all actors must use to guide decisions and actions: Mendocino County Cannabis Unit staff, cultivators, and all other makers and enforcers of cannabis-related decisions.

I am strongly opposed to leaving cannabis permitting decisions to the discretion of county planning staff. Mendocino's uniquely pristine rangelands and the diverse and abundant species they support, are too precious to leave in the hands of people who may or may not care about them.

People often say, “Why unfairly single out cannabis, what about vineyards?” And they’re right. We also need a broader ordinance that protects our wild lands from not only environmentally unsound cannabis cultivation, but other human expansions that adversely impact the environment, such as new vineyards, quarries, housing developments, and resorts. I call on the county to resume work on the “Oak and Oak Woodland Protection Ordinance” that seems to have been abandoned.

In closing, I would like to state my support for the excellent points made in letters opposing the repeal of the cannabis ordinance from the California Native Plant Society (San Hedrin and Dorothy King Young chapters); from the Willits Environmental Center; and from Sheila Jenkins.

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