

August 3, 2020

To Mendocino County Officials and Community,

I am Del Potter PhD, Chief Science Officer at Leef Labs and Aya Biosciences, and I am writing this letter as a member of the Mendocino business community with regard to the county's future plans surrounding cannabis regulations. Cannabis has been a part of Mendocino's history and culture for generations and I am excited to see that the Board of Supervisors are taking another hard look at how the current county regulations are setup in comparison to surrounding counties and to state regulations. I know this job has not been easy, but I do believe it's imperative Mendocino takes immediate action to adopt land use guidelines to preserve the heritage and industry we have in this county.

The founding partners of LEEF have been a part of the cannabis industry in Mendocino since the inception of proposition 215 and the 9.31 program. There have been some difficult years progressing from Prop 215 to Prop 64 that have led to polarized views of the operation of the local cannabis industry. More defined laws have led to better practices within the industry over the past several years and that has created a steady improvement of the environmental and regulatory landscape for all parties. To date, Leef has invested over twenty million dollars into the construction of one of the most technologically advanced and sophisticated extraction facility and distribution enterprise in the world. We chose Mendocino because of its long-standing legacy within the industry and the core belief that Mendocino would remain the top producer in the state when it came to cultivation. We believe the future trajectory of our business is being jeopardized by an added layer of local regulations that do not align with state regulations, which makes it difficult and expensive to source raw cannabis material locally. We are the top producing extraction facility in the state at the moment and currently consume over 100 acres of canopy to meet customer's needs statewide. For us to meet our current demand we would need well more than the production of every licensed producer in Mendocino because of the current cap at ten thousand square feet of permitted cultivation. We need to be able to produce and source this quantity of biomass here in Mendocino county as local revenue rather than obtaining it from the production of other counties which we find is most often contaminated with restricted pesticides.

Mendocino is in jeopardy of losing its most valuable industry asset, cultivation, if EIR issues are not addressed within the county. It is our hope that through a local process addressing this issue, we can construct county regulations in a way to ensure long term success. We support the proposal to change the local ordinance to reflect a land use approach. We hope that this process will allow for expansion in areas where expansion is appropriate while grandfathering in the current legacy licenses holders who are operating on land that cannot support expansion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Del Potter