

Board of Supervisors

July 21, 2020

Re: Cannabis Ordinance 5B

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Paula Fugman and I have lived in Covelo since 1973. My husband and I were educators here, working for Round Valley Unified School District and Mendocino College. We built our home here, raised two children, and worked to strengthen and help empower our students, both children and adults, to follow the paths they chose in their lives.

I also worked for a planning department in Compton, CA before coming here and so I have some real appreciation for the multi layered tasks of our planning department. I deeply respect the service that you, our local elected officials, our Board of Supervisors, try to provide to us, as Mendocino citizens, residents, businesses, ranchers, farmers, and tourists, most all of whom treasure the mountain, ocean and valley lands that make this county so very unique.

As you know, recently Covelo has had several fires, destroying large parts of our downtown, six valuable businesses in a town that needs McCormicks Auto Mechanic Shop, its Roundtree Glass company, the North Fork Cafe our only restaurant, our art center, O'Neils Towing and Autobody Repair Shop. The town itself is now plagued with illegal grows that keep popping up and threatening to overwhelm us with a kind of lawlessness that makes our safety and well being here questionable. Many of our friends and neighbors have moved and this exodus deeply saddens me.

It is important that the county acknowledge this growing criminal element and address the illegal grows here. Sheriff Kendall has begun that process and deserves your support.

But as the cannabis industry has been legalized here, I appeal to you to support the hard work done by your staff, and you, by our environmental spokespeople, by the local legal cannabis farmers and entrepreneurs, in crafting a hard earned and carefully articulated Cannabis Ordinance that protects our community from irresponsible rampant cannabis development on our rangeland, in our forests and in our timberland. Working with this ordinance, even though costly, is our only safe way forward if we are to protect both the citizenry of Mendocino county and health

of our ecosystem here. The state will not be able to oversee the destruction of our county's land. Turning over our cannabis permitting process to the state will be the end of generations of care for our forest land, timber and rangelands. Supervisor Jim Eddy and Planning Commissioner George Hammond and others before you sought to protect the diverse beauty and environment that keeps us all here. Please refuse to be intimidated by the suggested if inflated estimate of the costs which are incurred as we make our way to establishing a legitimate and legally conforming cannabis industry.

My friends and I used to ride our horse into the hills and travel up the Middle Fork of the Eel River with the Covelo Riding Club, until it became too dangerous to venture into these adjacent foothills because we were met with rifles and illegal grow sites. Opening our precious Oak woodlands, timberlands, and rangelands to large scale marijuana development breaks the social contact with us, your citizens, to provide for both human safety and protection of this county's lands.

Please continue to ensure the well being of all of us as you work to protect and provide for the people, the businesses, the rich tapestry of agricultural and timber, forest and range land that you steward in our name.

With respect and appreciation,

Paula Fugman