

June 10, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for your consideration to allowing our parcels the ability to be accepted into an overlay program to allow us to continue cultivating cannabis legally. My family purchased this two acre parcel 4 or 5 years ago, we were excited to find an empty lot on the valley floor that would allow us to continue to be a part of the Redwood Valley area. We had adopted our daughter a year prior and were ready to begin building a home closer to schools and the community. Prior, we had been cannabis farming further out in the hills. With the passing of legalization, it felt like a smart move to purchase the property as all indications were that two acre parcels would be allowed to have a "Small Cottage grow" of 2500 square feet. Shortly after purchasing the laws changed a little and we were told we would have 3 year sunset period, after which we wouldn't be able to grow. This was devastating. Having just purchased and used up all our equity and funds, along with needing to build a residence to meet the loan requirements, we weren't and aren't able to purchase a larger parcel of land.

We were hopeful that something would change or that we would be able to get accepted into the overlay program to be able to continue being a part of this community. Needless to say, the last couple years have not gone well. We applied for and received our original license as soon as we could. Then in 2018, as everyone is aware, the Mendo Complex Fire happened and decimated the community. It burned through our subdivision, luckily stopping within 10 feet of the house I was in the process of building myself. It burned up a good majority of my building supplies and also destroyed my cannabis garden and infrastructure. This was obviously a devastating blow of needing to repurchase building supplies as well as losing my years work and income. The following year, 2019, the last year of the sunset program, I lost my entire harvest again when the rental house burned down we were staying in.

I'm asking for you to please allow us into an overlay program to continue being able to grow legally. We love the area and the people and want our children (now two) to grow up in this area as the way the community pulled together after the fires really made us feel like this should be our home. If we aren't able to get into the legal side of the industry, we will be forced to leave the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ahren Osterbrink', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ahren Osterbrink

2585 Rolling Hills, Redwood Valley CA