

Dear Planning Commissioners, Sheriff Matt Kendall, and Board of Supervisors,

We non cannabis growers and residents of Covelo have appealed to the BOS with written letters, spoken on Zoom meetings, made telephone calls, all trying to make our concern for safety and environmental quality heard. We have lived here for almost fifty years, worked in our Round Valley Unified School District, taught for Mendocino College, raised our children here and planned our retirement here, and now we have appealed to the BOS to hear our concerns and luckily, Ms. Mullen has bulleted our concerns so well, I will not repeat them. What we need to say is that this county has committed itself to be a safe and hospitable place to live, to raise children, to form life time friendships and connections, to support small local businesses and civic organizations and our churches.. But now I fear we will be forced to leave this beautiful rural community as the illegal growers in the cannabis industry have brought violence, guns, killings, kidnapping and serious danger the likes of which we have never before witnessed here in Round Valley. The decision to now use rangeland for more cannabis cultivation is deeply foolhardy. The money the county imagines making will not be worth the danger and the crime that we have witnessed here with illegal grows this year. Please reexamine the decision and offer the non cannabis community, farmers ad ranchers and others a place worth living again. I so regret hearing that the Board of Supervisors voted to allow expansion and new cannabis grows in Rangeland. The BOS voted for this change despite the recommendations of their Staff, our Sheriff, the Farm Bureau, ranchers, environmentalist, and constituents. Those of us who live in Mendocino County know that the cannabis industry is not running smoothly and has not been incorporated into our lives in a balanced and safe manner. Why would they vote to expand the problems that we are currently facing? The health and safety of our county is at stake. The following issues are among the most obvious:

- 1)  
The Planning Department cannot deal with the number of permits that are current
- 2)  
The Planning Department has other serious commitments to the community
- 3)  
Law enforcement cannot keep up with the increased number of violations
- 4)  
Large grows are bringing huge numbers of transient workers into our communities
- 5)  
Transient works have no place to live and so, create unhealthy encampments
- 6)  
Robberies, traffic accidents, murders, carjackings, and kidnappings are increasing
- 7)  
Ranchers encounter problems with their cattle grazing
- 8)  
Firefighters encounter problems with frenzied growers
- 9)  
The Eel River and it's tributaries are being siphoned and polluted

Please give Mendocino County a chance to recover from the existing unintended consequences of our out-of-control cannabis situation. Expanding the problem without dealing with our inability to enforce our current regulations is reckless and dangerous. Cannabis is not a panacea for our county. At this point it is a monster on the loose.

Please help the county reconsider this ill conceived vote.

Thank you for your efforts to keep our county safe.

Thank you for all your effort to protect the whole community, not just one industry that has run amuck.

Paula Fugman



Covelo, CA 95428