

Dear Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

In reference to agenda item 3B Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting on January 25, 2021

Thank you for all your hard work in running the county. At the present time things are economically and physically challenging for all. As an ag producer of several generations these last few years have been very challenging. Continuing drought and state regulations, changing climate and political attitudes along with fires and pandemics have caused a severe burden on the local community. I applaud you for trying to keep the cannabis industry a small mom and pop thing in this county but that flies directly in the face of all of California state regulations that almost prohibit small business. Just look at the recent prop 15 put out by the state of California where they wanted to declassify grape growing as agriculture.

Diversification is always better than monoculture. You need to stop dragging your feet and let the current agricultural producers in Mendocino County grow cannabis in a commercial way so that we have another crop to rotate with. The terroir in Mendocino for growing cannabis is even better than for growing wine grapes. But the window of opportunity will not always be there and if Mendocino is slow to develop commercial cannabis other counties will take the lead. You are spending too much time over the minutiae for a small group of people who have been growing illegally for years. Help the farmers who have run their land for generations and are just looking for another cash crop to put in their operation.

Rory and Vincent Bartolomei