

Dear Mendocino County Supervisors,

We are writing to express our concerns about the last-minute changes to the CCAO proposal for Monday's meeting (1/25/2021).

These changes appear to eliminate or reduce most of the restrictions on medicinal and adult-use cannabis cultivation even in residential neighborhoods. Eliminating setbacks and indoor grow requirements, doubling the number of allowed plants per parcel, removing the 100 square foot limit and the residency requirement would open our neighborhoods to a major increase in cannabis cultivation.

Our primary concern has always been to maintain and enjoy the residential character of our neighborhoods, up to and including the RR-2 zones in which we live. Several people we know have experienced times when they cannot enjoy their own property here because of the stench emanating from near-by grows. Increasing allowable grows, moving them outdoors, and eliminating setbacks will certainly increase this phenomenon.

We understand peoples' rights to grow cannabis for medicinal and adult use. But this must be balanced with other peoples' rights to enjoy their own property. These changes are counter to that end and counter-productive to neighborhood accord.

And why the need to eliminate the residency requirement? It is one thing to try to balance the needs and rights of your neighbors, but harder to accept someone else coming into our neighborhood just to grow cannabis. Couldn't this lead to every single parcel being used to grow cannabis? This would create a regulatory nightmare. If someone wants cannabis but cannot grow where they live, they can go to a dispensary.

As for medicinal use, the current regulations seem to be adequate and not in need of changing. We have a friend who is a cancer patient. His grandson was growing the allowable amount of cannabis on this man's property for him. Our friend related to us that the amount of cannabis produced in the course of a year was much more than he could ever use. And he was no stranger to cannabis use in his life.

We support the MCCO as it stands with the rules in place for residential neighborhoods.

We urge you to reject these proposed changes.

Thank you,
Paul and Judy Tichinin