

January 25, 2021

Re: BOS Meeting on Jan. 25th, 2021 Item 3b

Dear Supervisors,

I am in support of the changes to the personal cultivation ordinance that is being proposed. It is time for the anti-cannabis folks to realize that their perspective on the evils of the cannabis plant are based on over half a century of lies and propaganda and that a new, enlightened, science based reality is upon us as a society. Cannabis is NOT CRIMINAL anymore! Please stop treating legal cannabis like it is. The continuation of their antiquated mindset is only perpetuating the very thing they want to avoid...a thriving black market!

Mendocino County is a community of many marginalized people in which cannabis has allowed a large swath of our population to make ends meet both medicinally and financially with supplemental income. If the recent cannabis ordinances which have been adopted over the past few years only allow for those with money and acreage to cultivate cannabis, then a disproportionate section of our community will be forced to maintain their lives of barely making ends meet by staying in the black market and the black market will continue to thrive. These are NOT commercial grows being proposed, we are talking only a few plants. Our neighborhoods are not going to be overrun by commercial grows by allowing an individual to grow 6 to 12 plants. That is a misperception. But if you don't allow the average person to grow a few plants, the black market will continue to thrive. We should take this a step further and consider passing regulations that would allow individuals to market their product at farmers markets and directly to dispensaries, you know, just like local vegetable farmers do. Take the stigma away, allow individuals to grow a few plants for themselves, and allow them to sell some to their neighbors and others in the community.

Additionally, I must ask WHY does ALL Rangeland cultivation require a Major Use Permit? Again, we are talking about an agricultural designated zone that permits ALL types of agricultural activity, except cannabis. Rangeland zoning allows types of agricultural practices that are WAY more destructive to the environment than cannabis. A Major Use Permit to grow 25 plants? 500 square feet or less? 2500 square feet? Even 10,000 square feet is only ¼ acre. Yet one only needs a Minor Use Permit for Rural Residential on 10 acre parcels? One could put a 22,000 square foot nursery on a 10 acre Rural Residential parcel? Rural Residential is not even zoned for an agricultural use? This makes ZERO sense and is completely illogical. These smaller cultivation projects on Rangeland should not need anything greater than an Administrative Permit. Cultivation projects greater than 10,000 square feet up to 40,000 square feet can require a Minor Use Permit unless the cultivation is Outdoor only, then an Administrative Permit should be sufficient. If 10% of parcel size is going to be the new standard, then it should be outdoor only with an Administrative or Minor Use Permit. How is 10 acres of cannabis plant any different than 10 acres of pear trees? Ascetically it's about the same and environmentally.

Thank you for your consideration.

With Hope and Reason,

Jed Davis