

Dear Board,

It has come to my attention that you have before you today Item 6A on the agenda, which basically proposes to strip our Planning Commission of the at large seats for Forestry and Agriculture. It is my assumption that Mr. Williams and Mr. Haschak, who are bringing this matter forward before the Board, have been lobbied by the cannabis industry to get rid of these two seats.

We residents in Mendocino County look at our main sources of income to support our tax base, **and the very industries you are attempting to silence the voices of are the ones who pay the most taxes in this County. Agriculture and forestry are natural resources that must be protected here in Mendocino County.** Other industries like restaurants, tourism, even manufacturing are not natural resources to be protected because those industries can move anywhere. They do not deserve a special seat at the table.

Agriculture enfolds many segments, i.e., fishing, small farmers who supply our organic co-ops, farmers markets, etc., plus the other legal tax paying enterprises such as grapes, pears, alfalfa, etc. God is not making any more of these types of resources, and knowledgeable voices need to be heard in the decision making process. I can testify to the uniqueness of the soils and climate of our County that allows farmers to grow organically. This cannot be done in other areas because of the climate. We are truly blessed, unique and deserve to be protected by sound decision making.

We are watching your decisions, as a Board, affect our natural resources to the detriment of the land, our culture, our water supplies, as well as the degradation of the beauty of Mendocino County. (Have you driven up Road D in Redwood Valley lately?) **And Matt Kendall tells me the once-beautiful rangeland/ag land of Potter Valley is on its way to becoming another Covelo.** Am I concerned? You can bet I am.

I humbly ask you please do not take the knowledgeable voices protecting our precious, limited natural resources away from us. If you do, this will be just another death-nail to an already declining County that we all once knew.

Martha Barra
1-26-2021