

February 20, 2021

To: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Re: Item #6(a) of the February 23, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting

I want to submit my support of Item #6(a) regarding clarification of CEQA requirements for Phase 1 cultivators in Mendocino County, especially SSHR's. We have a state licensed small farm located in Anderson Valley and submitted an application for a medium cannabis cultivation in 2017. We are one of the 1100 Phase 1 legacy farm applications that is stuck in the county processing. Currently we are trying to work through the Science Amendment with the state to convert our provisional license into an annual one. Unfortunately we are unable to do so because of the CEQA requirement that the county is the lead agency for.

To give some background, our cultivation was started by my 90 year old mother who developed a salve to help with the pain from her Rheumatoid Arthritis. At that time she had a medical license to grow and sold through the legal channels that were available with licensed medical dispensaries. We've continued on with this family tradition and have opened a retail cannabis apothecary called The Bohemian Chemist. It is a state licensed micro-business and is located at our property The Madrones in Philo California. Along with the flower from our own farm, we also offer brands from small family farms in the Anderson Valley region. Recently we have been showcased by Visit California, our state tourism bureau. In addition we will be featured in a travel log editorial in Conde' Nast Traveler Magazine this spring. We think these are firsts as the mainstream media outlets start to embrace an emerging cannabis market.

We believe that Mendocino with it's long tradition and maverick spirit should be the leader in this emerging legal market. The potential gains are enormous for our economy as well as tax dollars to support the resources and services that our communities desperately need. There is a story to be told here and we cannot do it without our legacy farmers having a seat at the table. These 1100 family farms that have been working towards licensed and legal operations need clarification and a viable path in county processing.

Once again I support the suggestions of Supervisor Haschek and Supervisor Williams in the cannabis Phase 1 update. They have been patiently interacting with Phase 1 applicants to better understand the challenges of this situation. I believe their suggestions will help correct some of the discrepancies in this ordinance.

Respectfully,

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