

CARMEL J. ANGELO
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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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February 26, 2021

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 59 (Caballero) Cannabis licenses – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero:

The County of Mendocino is pleased to support your bill SB 59, which would extend the sunset date of the provisional cannabis licensing program to January 1, 2028.

The Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) presently authorizes a licensing authority to issue a provisional cannabis license if an applicant has submitted a completed license application to the licensing authority, and demonstrated that compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and local cannabis ordinances, is in process.

With this provision set to expire on January 1, 2022, and a majority of operators still pursuing environmental review, local jurisdictions are without recourse to ensure that applicants meet all CEQA requirements.

Mendocino County is working closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Food & Agriculture in good faith to ensure that operators meet all CEQA requirements, but current timelines are prohibitive to environmental compliance.

The County of Mendocino strongly supports SB 59 (Caballero) to ensure that the thousands of statewide operators in this position continue to have a regulatory pathway to state licensure. Additionally, we support requiring applicants to provide regular progress reports to CDFA that document their ongoing efforts to meet CEQA requirements.

Please contact County Counsel, Christian M. Curtis at (707) 234-6885 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Gjerde
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Carmel J. Angelo, Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer

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