

Dear Board of Supervisors,

So long as regulations passed equate to regulations enforced, the politics of regulation exists along certain rational lines. There are those who believe that government has an important role in controlling a certain action of its citizens, and those who disagree. But at a certain point, below a certain percentage of regulatory enforcement, the logic reverses itself. Not unlike the magnetic poles of the Earth reversing every 200,000 years.

In March of 2021, in Mendocino County, if you believe in the importance of regulation, it is irrational to propose any more regulations. In March of 2021, in Mendocino County, only an anarchist could reasonably propose new regulations, unless those regulations were coupled with not only an increase in funding to allow for the enforcement of those new regulations but also with a massive boost in enforcement capacity to deal with our unfathomable backlog.

Moving forward, unless we see a sudden quadrupling of our county budget, the only thing for someone who believes in regulation to do is to remove regulations from the books until an equilibrium is achieved between what is technically illegal and what is actually enforced. I propose, for no particularly good reason, a goal of 80% enforcement of any regulation. Below that point, we should either decrease the scope of the regulation or up the enforcement budget. I think that this is the strange modern state of being pro-regulation. Those who are pro-regulation must now become anti-regulation, in order to be pro-(enforced)regulation. It will not always be like this. But it is for now.

All the best,

Kyle

Kyle Farmer