

To: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Jared Huffman, Mendocino County Planning Commissioners (pbs@mendocinocounty.org), Sheriff Kendall, Willits Weekly, Mendocino County Observer, MendoVoice, Ukiah Daily, RVAMAC, glazegoddess@gmail.com,

Re: Cannabis Expansion Ordinance

Date: March 20, 2021

As the debate goes forward regarding Cannabis Expansion, I implore the Board of Supervisors to review recent history regarding wildfires, droughts, water pollution, crime statistics and lawsuits. A decade ago the general population was not nearly so well informed. We did not know the consequences of reckless growth. We had not seen our rivers turn green with algae and dry up mid-summer. We had not faced long dark summers filled with smoke and evacuations, or a pandemic that gave us time to contemplate the results of abusing our natural resources.

Mendocino was known for its natural beauty, its redwoods, its rivers full of salmon. We were known as a great place for a week-end getaway or a chance to get in touch with nature. We were known for our artists, organic farms, seafood, and wonderful restaurants. Yes, we were also known as a county that grew marijuana ... healthy, organic pot grown by hippies who loved the land. A short term BigAg rush will end what is left of all that.

After a year of pandemic contemplation, I think the path forward should try to restore the reputation we had ... not destroy it.

Sincerely,

Dee Mullen

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