

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Item 3f, Phase 3 Cannabis Cultivation

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

As a lifelong resident of Mendocino County, I am writing to voice support for the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance memo in regards to Phase 3 Cannabis Cultivation.

Opening Phase 3, with cultivation of up to 10% of parcel size, is bound to see a multitude of issues. The Board of Supervisors and county staff willingly admit Planning and Building is under staffed and overburdened as it is. Having site specific requirements is excellent in theory but who is going to follow up to ensure businesses are adhering to those requirements? The 'farmers' able to scale up to this size are most definitely not small, family run farms, like mine, but businesses with deep pockets and/or outside investment who can afford expensive consultants, lawyers and fines.

I have heard both Leef Organics and Henry's Original claim there is not enough flower in Mendocino County to supply their needs. I would argue the problem isn't lack of product but the profit margins they are seeking. I, along with many other small farmers, am waiting for wholesale prices to rise due to the glut of cannabis grown in the counties pro-expansion individuals and groups are encouraging us to emulate.

Considering what has recently occurred at the federal level, there are no signs that interstate commerce is in the near future. Newly hired staffers of the Biden administration who admitted to PREVIOUSLY using cannabis were asked to quit, suspended or punished. That is not the behavior of an administration ushering in federal legalization. Without federal legalization there can be not global trade.

On a more personal note, I would like to talk about my community on Registered Guest Road in Laytonville. Josh Keats, co-owner of Henry's Original, owns a property on Registered Guest Road which I drive by often. I believe Josh purchased this property with the intention of making it his home and building a small community store. Since then (2015) he has abandoned this property and clearly sees it only as profit generator. I recently noticed new gates being installed for access and a bulldozer in the scenic field many residents pass by on the way to their *homes*. On that gate is a provisional, mixed-light, tier 1 license from CDFA. I can only imagine what he has planned for that space as he has abandoned the property, just as his co-founder Jamie Warm has abandoned a lovely home on Mather Lane. If Mr. Keats follows suit, it will be a field of PVC hoop houses, covered in plastic with plants that are in grow bags, not native soil as Mr. Warm claimed during the Planning Commission meeting on March 19, 2021. I do not begrudge them their success in the cannabis market place but the idea that they care about Mendocino County and the communities that live here is laughable.

I recognize as a County we cannot control the market or prevent growth. I would point out, historically, that large scale agriculture has crushed the small farmer; dairy, produce, meats, vineyards, etc. Is that what we want for the legacy cannabis farmers of Mendocino County?

The legal and regulated cannabis market is young. It may be difficult to recognize for cannabis at this point in time, but there is something to be said for small, craft products the world over.

Thank you for your time and thought on this matter.

Meagen Hedley

Spyrock Farms