

Addressed to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors - I've lived in Laytonville my entire life. I was born in '92 and have watched the North Road neighborhood go through changes associated with the various cannabis ordinances that have been enacted in Mendocino County. When I was a child, we used to ride our bikes down the street to watch the meth houses burn down around the neighborhood. It was ugly in the old neighborhood. Meth was rampant, and poverty was the rule. Proposition 215 changed the neighborhood for the better. Those were the best years, the most apparently prosperous years for the residents of the neighborhood, by far. The meth houses got bought up, fixed up, and moved into. Sure, fences went up also, and you could smell the ganja on the summer breeze as you rode your bike through the neighborhood, but the prosperity and peace was tangible. Unfortunately there has been a clear cut reversal in the past five years since the passing of Proposition 64. The meth has returned. The desperation is apparent, and tangible. People are out of their minds, fighting in the streets, and there are sections of the neighborhood that look like a shanty town. People are packing up and moving away, or considering it. There is a obvious correlation between economic prosperity, and the freedom to grow small amounts of cannabis in Mendocino County. My argument is anecdotal, but it's the truth that many of us see. Small mom and pop farms, the Mendocino Legacy 25 plant farms are what have sustained the working class in this county since the early 90s, and arguable since the collapse of the logging industry. There is no other viable industry to sustain Mendocino County. Using a blanket enforcement method, made possible by satellite enforcement will ruin our economy. There are bad actors, people who destroy the environment. There are cartels and human traffickers. There's no denial of those facts, and those people deserve what they have coming to them. But, there are good, environmentally conscious and upstanding people who were cut out of the running by the hurdles of Proposition 64 that don't deserve to have their livelihoods destroyed in the process of bringing bad actors to justice. This situation isn't black and white, and I implore you folks on the Board of Supervisors to understand that. To sit with it and mull the consequences of heavy handed blanket enforcement. Thank you for hearing me out. - T. A. Hansen