

To the County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed new cannabis cultivation ordinance: the Commercial Cannabis Activity Land Use Ordinance.

There is so much at stake here it is not possible to overestimate the potential impact and cost to our county:

- Our environment:

- The proposed ordinance opens the door for massive expansion of cannabis cultivation in the county and thus creates powerful incentives for large-scale commercial and residential development throughout the county's remote, rural, environmentally sensitive landscape. This will add to the multitude of known and unknown impacts already affecting the county's human and natural environments.

- In addition to opening the 738,000-acre rangeland zone to new cannabis operations, lifting the 10,000 sq. ft. cap on cultivation site size, and removing any limits on the number of permits per parcel, the proposed ordinance would allow up to **10% of a 10-acre or larger parcel in the Agricultural, Upland Residential, and Rangeland Zones to be converted to cannabis cultivation.**

- Would strip away prohibition on cutting trees to create a new cultivation site and thus create accompanying erosion

- Would impact our available water or better still, lack of available water to sustain such cultivation

At the very least, considering the magnitude of the expansion plan, the county should do a full Environmental Impact Review.

I ask you, who are you representing?

The **Farm Bureau does not support** this new proposal, the **small cannabis grower does not support it**, **our Sheriff does not support it**, and the **environmental community does not support it**. And this new proposal is NOT the Vision supported by the majority of citizens of this county, as evidenced by the fact that Measure AF, which proposed cannabis in almost every zoning district, went down to defeat in 2016.

This proposal wholly ignores the recommendations of the Mendocino Climate Action Committee regarding appropriate land use development to meet the need for greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestration goals.

To: Maureen Mulheren
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
2nd District Supervisor

Dear Ms. Mulheren,

You are my Supervisor and I am asking that you vote **NO** on this Phase 3 Cannabis Ordinance ordinance based on the opinions expressed by the majority of those citizens you represent. There are so many reasons that expansion of marijuana grows in Mendocino County under the proposed ordinance is a very bad idea. I spent the morning reading all the public information available and the examples cited by others on how this ordinance would have negative outcomes for our quality of life for years to come.

To drastically alter the permit process in Mendocino County is a mistake because the County has been unable to handle the Phase 1 and 2 paperwork and the protection that was supposed to be in place for our “legacy farmers” who have been frustrated and discriminated against in favor of big corporations and outside companies like FloKana. Hundreds of grow sites trying to go legitimate have yet to be inspected or to see progress in processing their existing applications. Fix what is broken now before you change the rules again.

I read the letter from Sheriff Kendall and his impassioned pleas to you. There is no way his department can enforce marijuana laws nor does he have the personnel to keep the community safe from the lawless element that is clearly present in this industry. If bigger grows are allowed it brings outsiders here who have no regard for our community. It is just about how much profit they can make in our marijuana friendly culture. Where is the law enforcement and oversight of an expanded pot industry going to come from?

Supervisor Haschak’s letter to the Mendo Voice highlights the environmental damage that grows cause to our beautiful county. Polluted streams, plastics and chemicals left at the grows, damage to our roads by water trucks, and the water stolen from our streams and creeks as we enter our second year of drought. Hoop houses already dot the landscape. I do not want more marijuana growing: I want you to regulate what is currently growing. Why would you allow 10% of parcels in Rangeland and Agriculture to be used for marijuana? Why would you allow Oak trees to be cut down to grow pot?

When you were on the Ukiah City Council you were clearly in favor of not limiting the number of dispensaries in our town. Now, as a Supervisor you seem to support marijuana for revenue growth or as a new tourist industry for our County, but you have the obligation and the duty to represent the will of the people. Do not just see tax dollars; see the damage this can do to our County.

Letters from Karen Rifkin on 3/31 and Dori Cramer 4/9 in the UDJ include other negative impacts that I have not mentioned but I agree with their points.

If you have not been kidnapped by FloKana and other Corporate Marijuana heavy weights you need to listen to the objections from Fish and Game, the Farm Bureau, the Sierra Club, the Ukiah Daily Journal, the Observer and former sheriff Tom Alman. The overwhelming majority of citizens oppose this ordinance.

This is too big of an issue; affecting all aspects of our lives that it must be brought before the voters of Mendocino County. If we cannot count on our elected representatives to do what is right for the citizens' they represent, then you need to let the will of the voters decide this important issue by calling for these big changes to be placed on the ballot.

Respectfully,

Ravneet Kaur