

I am writing to urge you to not adopt the proposed Cannabis Land Use Ordinance. Any expansion of cannabis in Mendocino County must be preceded by a county-wide Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which has not been done.

The ordinance would open 738,000 acres of rangeland to greatly expanded cultivation areas.

Our area is already in an extreme drought. Cannabis growing requires large amounts of water that we don't have. Our rangelands are more and more threatened by fire. The vehicles, machines, tools etc. used in large scale cannabis grows would heighten fire danger. Fish and other wildlife would be threatened by pollution, vehicles, loss of habitat, etc.

The ordinance would put many small legacy growers who have struggled to meet the legal grow requirements out of business.

In 2016 the county said no to cannabis expansion into rangelands by voting down Measure AF.

I urge you to listen to your constituents and reject this proposal. Please, at the very least, do a comprehensive environmental analysis and consider the results.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lori Vest