

"My name is Gregg Grande. My wife and I are 38 year residents of Mendocino County. I've been lucky enough to stay gainfully employed the whole time and I've got the W2's to prove it. I currently have a job in the legal cannabis trade as a purchasing agent. I would like to start off by saying that I'm for Phase 3, and the 10% expansion. I really feel that the only way my current job stays in Mendocino County is with the progressive implementation of the proposals we're here to talk about today.

At best we're all just trying to chart the uncharted of this paradigm. If anybody on either side of the coin tells you this, or that is what is exactly going to happen, they're not going to be totally right. Nobody really knows what side of history they're going to fall on, until it's the present, or already past.

Let's face it, people didn't come to this county because this is where illegal cannabis grows best, they came here because it was the best place to grow illegal cannabis. There are a multitude of places where cannabis is a more prolific producer than Mendocino County. Being extremely rural without funds to defend itself left a perfect storm scenario for Mendocino County. Even with local, state, and federal law enforcement, and task forces, the county never had a real chance to defend itself and in the end all they did was drive up the prices. All this mainly did for most residents is confuse the line between who wore a white hat and who wore a black hat.

A lot of people were witness to the timber transition in district 3 as the industry started flailing along with jobs and businesses. Timber fallers would go out everyday and fall their strips to help their household break even. Then after putting in a full day on their strip they would go and cut as much firewood as their pickup would hold to help maybe get ahead a little. I know a lot of residents here do their own firewood so, to put this time in perspective, a single pound of cannabis had the same value as a 50 cord pack of firewood. It's easy to see why the transition happened even with the staunchest anti cannabis people in the county.

Even though this happened in our tiny little corner of the planet in the past, we're about a minute away from the rest of the world being in the same position as Mendocino County was. The commercial agriculture business in this country is as cut throat as any other. Historically, they grow the heck out of whatever the money producer of the day is. For others out there, their corn and soybeans are like our timber and firewood.

If you really think large California producers are driving down the cannabis price, wait until the midwest takes their gloves off. There's a reason the federal government's patch is in Missouri, and that is because it's where cannabis grows best. This is where you're going to get cut off at knees on bulk legal cannabis pricing.

Once again I would like to say that I'm for Phase 3 and the 10% expansion, and I'm seriously hoping that it's not too little too late for our tiny corner of the planet.

Thanks to the BOS for your time and energy in this matter.

--

Gregg Grande