

April 13, 2021

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

**I Say No To Cannabis Expansion Again!**

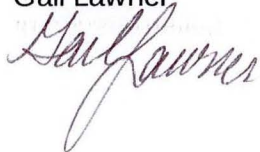
Democratic systems of government at all levels, especially those that are local, are supposed to be for the people and by the people. Citizens participate in decision making for their own local communities. At least that is the way it is written into the constitution. It is not supposed to be for big business and corporations who stand to make huge profits. Profits over people. Voters in this county passed a carefully drafted ordinance in 2016, in which strict protections were put into place to protect water, soil, wildlife and the general rural flavor of our county ie. restrictions on greenhouse lighting at night and generator noise to allow residents to enjoy the starlit night sky and peace and quiet so valued among residents of this county. This was a clear message that residents of Mendocino county care about the impacts of the cannabis industry on our physical environment, the ecology and natural beauty and prefer to limit growth in order to maintain the ecological abundance of our area. Now it seems the BOS wants to bypass this ordinance with its built in environmental and ethical protections, and open up cannabis to big corporate style grows. Does this ignore what the majority of residents want?

One of the reasons many residents are opposed to opening up rangeland and upland rural areas of the county is concern that there is not enough water to sustain these large grows without greatly impacting the available water table and possibly depleting the water supply for all of us. With this impending drought, is this going to trigger water shortages for long-time residents who pay property taxes as well as the small farmers who need water to grow food for our communities.

I say NO to expansion and regulation on a case by case basis. If for no other reason than we don't have the water resources. It is the job of the BOS to be responsive to the voting population of this county. So please respond appropriately.

In consternation,

Gail Lawner



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