

TO: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
From: Casey O'Neill, HappyDay Farms

I write today to address the proposed "Phase 3" cannabis ordinance as it applies to development and the future of agriculture in this place that has been my home since birth. I write in hope and concern, with full recognition of how difficult it is for you, as policymakers, to chart this course. I appreciate your efforts and willingness to listen and consider.

I sit on the MCA Policy Committee and I offer my full support for the memo submitted.

My hope is that in crafting a new, land-use ordinance you will foster and support 3 goals. I hope that you will minimize burdens and maximize access to this new process for the existing Phase 1 operators and other small businesses. I hope that in the regulations you support you will enshrine the history of efforts towards sustainability that have made our county a reputation on the world stage. I hope that you will consider the effects of your proposed ordinance on small farmers of both food and cannabis.

I am concerned about unintended consequences. This happens with any piece of policy, and it is my firm belief that slow, measured steps are of utmost importance to be able to assess and mitigate consequences as they arise. Please foster policy that rolls out over time with clear metrics and benchmarks.

Cannabis development should be held to high standards of production. Just like Mendocino was the first county in the nation to ban GMO's, this is our opportunity to offer our support for a future of agriculture that works towards sustainability. Chances like this come but rarely.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment!