

To: The Board of Supervisors

From: Kathleen Fitzgerald Azarnoff

Re: Cannabis Land Use Ordinance

I have been a resident of Mendocino County for more than 40 years; raised my family here and have paid property taxes to this county for over 40 years. I have lived in my present home on 160+ acres of rangeland in Redwood Valley for over 32 years. I am a retired schoolteacher. I would like my grandchildren to have clean and adequate water, land for growing food and the wildlife that presently enriches our lives here in this county.

I am writing about my opposition to the proposed cannabis land use ordinance. Opening Mendocino County to large-scale commercial cannabis cultivation will destroy our environment and the damage would be irreparable. The water issues alone are major. It is absolutely necessary to have an environmental impact report before any cannabis expansion can be considered. It is totally irresponsible for the Board to consider passing something that would drastically and negatively affect the environment; particularly with the larger issues of climate change, drought conditions, essential tree life for oxygen, wild animal population decline, etc.

In the last 6 months, I can see huge increases in hoop green houses all over Redwood Valley. The natural environment of our county is so precious. We should be doing everything possible to protect it for now and the future generations.

In 2016, the people of Mendocino County voted against opening all zoning areas to expanded cannabis cultivation. Now, I would expect that elected Board members would listen to the numerous and valid concerns regarding this ordinance and vote to not adopt it.

Thank you.