

Dear Mendocino County Supervisors,

We are writing to oppose the current Phase 3 Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance Proposal. We are a family living and working in Round Valley. Louisa was born and raised here, and our extended family continues to live here. Our son was born here in 2016. This is the community where we want to live and raise our family.

We urge you to reconsider the 10% rule. With the unprecedented 2021 drought and anticipated water insecurity, now is not the time for expansion. Our oak woodlands are the ancestral homeland of local Indian tribes. Elders and young people alike will tell you that until we come in right relation to the land we will continue to face local disasters such as wildfire and drought. The current phase 3 plan is a step in the wrong direction. We ask you to give credit where credit is due. Despite all assurances, the county has not supported small growers. These are growers who have paid their fees and jumped through the paperwork hoops and are overwhelmed by prohibitive regulatory processes. We support the Mendocino Cannabis Alliances amendments to the new ordinance. Complaint Phase 1 and 2 operators should be able to continue operation while given time to resubmit a complete digital application for review. This includes continuous prioritized review of applications from Phase 1 and 2 operators transitioning to the new ordinance.

Please consider the voices coming out of District 3. John Haschak is the one supervisor to vote against the current Phase 3 ordinance and his district is the one that will be affected the most. Growers in District 3 grow the most cannabis and it is also the region that has the most rangeland.

There is a long history of communities like ours paying a disproportionate share of the cost of big business without reaping the benefits. Will this be the case when big cannabis comes to Round Valley? Will the County reap tax revenue while new enterprises spend their profits elsewhere and leave their mark on the water table and rangelands?

Sincerely,

Louisa Bolton-Ast

Teacher, Round Valley Elementary School

Josh Bennett

Branch Manager, Mendocino County Library, Round Valley Branch