

Dear Supervisors,

I have spent many years speaking on behalf of wildlife and watershed protection. I founded the Mendocino Wildlife Association for just that reason.

At a Town Hall in 2018 when McCowan was on the Cannabis AdHoc, he asked me specifically when I thought it WOULD be okay to open up RL. I answered then "When you have shut down the illegal grows and have a pulse on what's going on with our fragile water systems." My answer remains the same. We must not open RL.

In the beginning of legalization when we Legacy farmers came down from the hills to the county to seek compliance, it was stated that if we did not sign up within a year's time for the cannabis program, we would never be eligible to become a legal farmer on our RL homestead properties. We extended the timeline to give the Legacy Farmers time and I think that is right. We made that timeline for the Legacy farmers and that is what we should stick to. That's how important we all agreed it was to keep RL closed. We crafted this policy to protect the watershed, wildlife, habitat, our roads and our neighbors. So let me be clear, please do not open up RL to new growth. It is short sighted and opposite of where we want to be going as a county.

We are in dire straits here with regards to having so many stressors on the table right now. I would ask that you consider a drought emergency ordinance.

The moratorium on new growth would give us a much needed respite and a chance to catch up with our current applicants, it would help us see who the bad actors are simply because anyone who is developing this year would be out of compliance. Most importantly, it would give our wildlife a chance at making it through this difficult time due to lack of water, wildfire, habitat loss, and disease that is often associated with these stressed conditions. .

Here are my simple three recommendations:

1. Please place a moratorium on new cultivation because of the draught
2. While we are in a timeout from new development, see about getting our EIR together
3. Ferret out the greedy gross grows as many as possible and get them out of town! (I know we can't do that, but it sure would be nice)

**Imagine please for a moment that you did vote on a moratorium for a year. Image all year no cannabis meetings while we deal with covid and wildfires, mental health and water. Imagine how smart you all will feel knowing you have made a safe decision for the good of all living beings.**

I'd like to address the world stage. You may know of the business model that says "Bigger is Better". Welp, these days with the world changing literally so much daily, so is the business model. Bigger is not better anymore. In FACT, smaller, local, sustainable is better. Let's educate our producers, all our producers on BEST PRACTICES. I am a Legacy Cannabis Farmer. Our Practice is biointegrated. That means we grow with the Coffee Berries and the Ceanothus and

other drought tolerant native species. We understand you need rats in the pantry and we make sure never to use poisons as it will kill the local foxes, raptors, bobcat, you basically poison the pantry. These are things that people need to know, we live in a diverse habitat with the most species of any other county in CA. We need to hold it down, for us, for our future generations, and most importantly, for them, the wildlife.

Our Ag and our Best Practices need collaboration. The world stage is waiting for us. We are not cheap weed, we are not cheap wool or wine. **We craft some of the best, most expensive products you will find in the world.** We live in heaven and our products are made from the gods, the sweetest water and the cleanest soils. Double down and bet on the small farmer, not the expansion, not the opening of RL, but the small durable, drought tolerant farmer. We are like the "Biscuit" Seabiscuit and the big growers are the War Admiral, we all know who wins that race. [mendocinoproducersguild.org](http://mendocinoproducersguild.org)

P.S. We would love to help all Mendocino Producers who would like to get in the race of sustainable value products. Team Mendo!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Traci Pellar,  
Laytonville  
3rd District