

To: Board of Supervisors and Glenn McGourty Supervisor District 1  
From: Debra and John Attaway  
April 18, 2021

Stop **Cannibism**: the aberrant activity of well funded and unscrupulous and sometimes criminal pot growers...parasitizing wild lands, rivers, and the minds of local community officials.

As homeowners in Mendocino County for 37 years, we are appalled at the spread of unregulated and illegal cannabis grow sites. Last spring, in our neighborhood, we observed clear cutting of oak woodlands, vehicles driving through and damaging a creek bed, destruction of drainage, and a hoop house lit 24-7 right off the county road.

We called Planning Officer Brian Webb, who came and inspected. Even though he had authority, he was ordered off the property and had to return sometime later and found that this enterprise, owned by someone from the east coast, was out of compliance in several areas. Unfortunately, it seemed that the planning department and other agencies had their hands full with more dangerous problems in Covelo.

We learned through the Ukiah Daily Journal (March 30, 2021) that Cultivation Permit Applications and Zoning Review have not done site inspections as required and that County staff has lost track of over 1000 applications.

We property tax payers and county citizens are demanding responsible representation. The proposed ordinance leaves the protection of Mendocino County's natural resources in the hands of cannabis consultants, out-of-state growers, a county staff that does not have resources and adequate guidance, and an underfunded sheriff's department.

Earlier county governments have failed in their attempts to regulate this industry. One example is the failure of the Board to incorporate Ag Department's knowledgeable recommendations. The current Board seems not up to the task of creating a new regulatory framework that addresses the concerns of both citizens and growers. There are examples from other counties and guidance from the state that should be used as templates instead of this current and unbalanced proposal.

Any expansion **MUST** be preceded by an Environmental Impact Report!

Sincerely  
John and Deb Attaway