

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I write in support of CCAG's and MCA's thorough, well-informed, and reasonable memos.

We are still dealing with the negative ramifications of a previous BOS rushing to implement an ordinance without due diligence in consideration of State law. And here we are again, with a different grouping of supervisors, this time attempting to jump in front of current state law by authorizing a 10% expansion footnote folded into the phase 3 ordinance for certain zones in our county.

Why is Phase 3 linked to expansion? What does 10% expansion have to do with having a functional program infrastructure and implementation? Why should folks, coming in under Phase 3, with no proof of prior cultivation, be allowed to cultivate to such a large scale when all the folks who have been in the program since 2017 had to come in at 10,000 sq feet (and with proof of prior cultivation)?

People who represent outside-the-County-investor-backed corporations say that "Small farms aren't viable." As a small farmer, among a strong community of small farmers, I will tell you that is patently untrue. Our farm is a profitable small business. We are not greedy. We are not trying to make millions; we are making a living. Legacy cultivators are both the origins and the future of cannabis in Mendocino County.

Consider the amount of public discourse **OPPOSED** to this expansion, consider how this opposition cuts across a diverse range of stakeholders. This coalition of opposition should be a giant red flag to the Planning Commission and the BOS that the public that **LIVES IN THIS COUNTY** does not want this expansion.

I urge our County to uncouple Phase 3 from Expansion and fully focus on implementing and executing a functional cannabis program.

Thank you,
Michelle Peñaloza