

Dear BOS,

I am a licensed cannabis farmer in this county and I oppose the 10% expansion. I am honestly shocked it is even on the table given our county's current licensing limitations and water issues. A simple path to licensure in this county has yet to be created. Rules change constantly. Instead of focus energies on making it less ridiculously difficult to get and stay compliant, Mendocino County is willing to sell itself off to the highest bidders? Clearly, this is about money. If the county wants more money why not allow for more cannabis-friendly businesses? Embrace cannabis tourism and reap the economic benefits? Make Mendo a cannabis destination like Napa is for wine. How about simplifying the permitting and compliance process so more small farmers can survive and fewer will continue to operate illegally. All this would generate more income for the community without sacrificing the well-being of it's inhabitants for the benefit of the few.

Increasing to 10 percent will only benefit the few who have the money and land or attract corporate interests and outside capital. This will do absolutely nothing for the small farmers but lower the prices of cannabis in this area, pushing small farmers out of business and taking from limited resources.

It is clear that only a small percentage of our community wants the 10% expansion - only the people who financially benefit. The majority of the community including cannabis farmers do not want the expansion. Please remember that you work for the people, not your own interests.

Respectfully,
Amber A. Speckman