Dear Board Members:

Please read. And consider carefully.

We don't need Mendocino County to join the burst bubble of pot grows left rotting in the fields, after huge quantities of water are used to grow the marijuana.

Please don't give our beautiful, fragile county lands to people who only want to use our county name for their sales pitches of the crop.

They're not going to live here with us, clean up our beaches, creeks, mountain trails, and roadsides. They're not going to become small town or small city dwellers, who put years of their devoted hard work into the children, the schools, the community organizations that we so lovingly attend to (the local Granges, the local Rotary clubs, the volunteer fire departments, the booster clubs for high school sports, for 8th grade graduations and high school Academic Decathlon's and FFA rabbit, pig, beef, sheep auctions in August every year that support our youth learning to care for large & small animals while learning how to manage their daily activities to include homework sssignments and family commitments for their brothers & sisters, mothers & fathers).

If you give Big Business access to our countryside they will hire outsiders who come plant and protect their bosses crops with dogs and guns. They will leave the dogs behind when their crop is mature.

I have spent some weeks every summer since 1998 camping at Green Springs Horse Camp, one of the access points to trails into the Yolla Bolly Wilderness. And I spend time each summer cleaning up after pot grows in Mendocino National forest in the mountains east of Covelo.

Over the years I've carried out in the roofbox on the top of my car hundreds of pounds of pipe and plastic grow structures and detritus of abandoned camps.

We do not have the Sheriff's Dept manpower to protect the rural communities that you are considering opening up for large grow businesses.

We don't have any other regulatory department manpower trained to oversee large grows on mountainside lands or valley tracts. Please STOP.

PLEASE SAVE our county from the ravages of Big Business.

Thank you for reading at least the highlights of the attached article from The New York Times newspaper. Respectfully submitted,

CAROL ORTON, LCSW,

Willits resident 42 years.

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