

To all of those influencing the direction of policy regarding cannabis cultivation,

I hope this email is received well and please feel free to ask any questions! Here it is:

Thank you for all of your time spent contemplating what you feel is best for our residents here in Mendocino County.

I'm writing you this email to hopefully give a voice to the legacy farmers who I believe have not been well represented.

From personal experience in my communications with many local, unlicensed cultivators, I have found that many of those farmers either do not know the policy changes that are being discussed OR they're uncomfortable getting involved, BECAUSE they are unlicensed.

I want to help bridge this gap because I care about my community's future, economically, socially, AND environmentally.

I fully support MCA's most recent suggestions and considerations submitted to the BOS for the April 19th meeting. There are a few important points I would like to add to what they have advocated for.

I would appreciate it if you would please consider the following before your next special BOS meeting on the 27th.

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I would like to see our supervisors advocate for the legacy farmers who have eagerly been awaiting the next phase of cannabis licensure, who are not yet licensed. Many of these farmer's did not have the opportunity to apply during phase 1 for a myriad of reasons. Some of those reason were that they were managing or employed by someone else's farm; in some cases phase 1 policy didn't qualify a farmer to apply; some farmer's didn't own their own land; some farmers didn't have the financial stability; and other farmer's just didn't know how to approach it or didn't trust it.

Again, I want to help bridge this gap, and my hope is that I can encourage more cultivators from this category to reach out to you, our supervisors for support in advocating for a cannabis ordinance that fully supports their transition into the legal market. I am not looking for special treatment, only equal opportunity for the many locals who fall into this category to apply. I am aware that many of them will still not make it through, but i feel strongly that every one of them should have the chance to be considered.

My suggestions to the Mendocino County BOS are these:

Keep current zoning the way it is written in the draft.

Allow for equal opportunity for applicants (rather than limit to phase 1 and 2 applicants and/or

those already established in other crops in the big ag industry. I fully support the head start period for phase 1 and 2 applicants)

As Ted Williams said in the last meeting, allow for all interested applicants to apply.

Allow for mixed light cultivation, at least for small license categories. This helps protect certain farmers from extreme weather damage loss and also gives more creativity and flexibility to farmers as a way for them to plan for success. REMEMBER, light and noise pollution will not be tolerated in the new ordinance, and I believe those intending to apply care deeply about the social and environmental elements relating to their business.

MOST HUMBLY I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THAT YOU STAND TO REPRESENT THE CITIZENS WHO LIVE IN THIS COUNTY. The category of people I reference above are definitely a large percentage of our population in Mendocino County. I intend to support this transition in all ways possible. I want all residents to be in compliance with county regulation. I want to help, but I can only imagine doing that if there is a legal pathway forward for these people.

I hope you feel my best intentions here.

With all of my heart, I wish the best for our county.

Feel free to reach out to me for any reason!

Thank you for your time,

Jessi Alvarado