

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors.

I am writing to once again voice support to extending the close date of the Phase 1 cannabis application portal.

I am puzzled as to why the County would want to lock out operators who have come forward and are attempting to make it through the portal. I believe this board supports small farmers and am not sure how locking out applicants does this. The Portal Incomplete Application Notification that is sent out to applicants reads

*"Please keep in mind that the Portal will expire on October 30, 2021. If a complete application has not been submitted by the expiration date your application will be denied."*

What exactly is a complete application? In my experience it varies from one reviewer to another. The information given during the webinars regarding the portal was helpful but in no way exhaustive. Applicants are being asked to submit items that they are unaware are needed. For years applicants have complained that there are ever-changing goal posts and it continues to be the case. I understand that additional items may be needed but this should not result in an automatic denial.

I submitted one new and one revised application via the portal over the weekend of October 16<sup>th</sup> and still have not heard back about either of them. From my understanding the cannabis department receives new or resubmitted applications on Mondays. If one item on an application that was received this week is deemed 'incomplete' that farmer is locked out of the system and will no longer be able to operate in Mendocino County. How does this serve anyone?

Thank you for taking the time to consider this very important issue.

Meagen Hedley