



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

DARCIE ANTLE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

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June 2, 2026

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Chris Rogers
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support for \$4.5 Million Cannabis Appellations Grant Program Budget Request

Dear Chair Laird, Chair Gabriel, Senator McGuire, and Assemblymember Rogers:

On behalf of the County of Mendocino, I am writing in strong support of the proposed 2026–27 State Budget allocation of \$4.5 million to establish a California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Cannabis Appellations Grant Program supporting small and legacy cannabis cultivators in researching, developing, and submitting cannabis appellation petitions.

We appreciate Senator McGuire and Assemblymember Rogers for their leadership in advancing this important proposal at a critical moment for California's legacy cannabis-producing regions.

The County of Mendocino is home to historic cannabis-producing communities that have played a significant role in California's agricultural heritage and rural economy for generations. California now stands at the threshold of launching the world's first legal, standards-based appellations program for cannabis through CDFA's Cannabis Appellations Program (CAP). This historic framework has the potential to create long-term economic opportunities for rural communities through place-based branding, product differentiation, agritourism, and the preservation of regionally distinct agricultural traditions.

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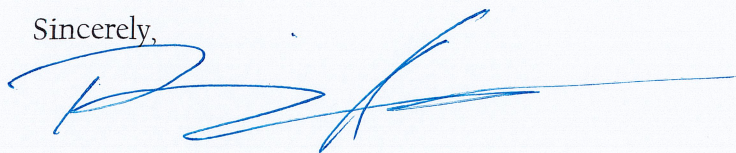
However, the cost associated with researching, developing, and submitting appellation petitions presents a substantial barrier for small and legacy cultivators. Petition development is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000 per petition, placing participation out of reach for many independent farms that continue to face severe economic hardship following years of market decline within California's legal cannabis industry.

A CDFA-administered grant program supporting cultivators licensed for one acre or less would help ensure that the Cannabis Appellations Program fulfills its original intent of supporting small and legacy farmers. Such a program would also advance broader statewide goals by strengthening the legal cannabis market, promoting environmentally sustainable cultivation practices, supporting rural economic revitalization, preserving California's leadership in craft cannabis production, and protecting the state's unique cannabis genetic diversity.

For legacy cannabis-producing counties such as Mendocino this investment represents an important opportunity to support sustainable economic development within rural communities that have experienced significant economic contraction in recent years. Cannabis appellations have the potential to help small farms compete in increasingly difficult markets by creating legally recognized regional designations that communicate quality, provenance, and production standards to consumers.

We respectfully urge your support for this important budget proposal and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bernie Norvell, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors