

Please see attached.

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Planning & Building Services

May 6, 2021

To: Mendocino County Planning Commission

From: Jed Davis
Mendocino Clone Company
Potter Valley

Re: Commercial Cannabis Activities Ordinance- 5/6/2021

Honorable Commissioners,

I am writing to express my full support for the memo submitted by the Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group and the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, particularly the "More Compliance = More Community Protections" section and the suggestion to create a Craft Cultivation Permit.

Opening permitting to ALL of the cannabis participants in our county who wish to participate legally by creating a small cultivation/business category in which the hurdles are severely reduced is PARAMOUNT to the socio economic well being of our county.

After listening to an interview by two Post Doctoral Researchers from the Berkeley Cannabis Research Institution, I became aware of the fact that a majority of the cannabis and cannabis revenue in Mendocino County was being produced by small cultivators who have 6 to 25 plants in their back yard, or a 20 x 20 hoop-house, or a small cloning operation in their garage or bedroom, which they use to supplement their income from one or two low paying jobs. It is not the 5,000+ square foot commercial farms that make up the majority of the cannabis economy in Mendocino county, but rather it is the plethora of small "back yard" cultivators. Yet, these people have been regulated out of the cannabis picture through zoning restrictions, compliance costs, and the sheer size of the labyrinth of regulation. (Please see the research article by the Berkley Cannabis research Center titled: ***Growers Say Cannabis Legalization Excludes Small Growers, Supports Illicit Markets, Undermines Local Economies.*** at the following link:

<http://calag.ucanr.edu/archive/?type=pdf&article=ca.2019a0018>)

Our current ordinance only considers cannabis activities for those who want to make it their full time job, not for those who use it as a part time, supplemental income. It is not possible for one to make it through all that is required to be compliant and participate in the cannabis industry on a micro-scale level, so these people (the 7000+ remaining grows in the county of the estimated 8000 cultivation

sites in Mendocino County) choose not to participate and to remain in the illegal market.

It has been estimated during that the golden years of the Prop 215 era, 60-75% of Mendocino's economy was derived from cannabis. If this estimate is true, and a majority (or even half) of our county's cannabis economy is being forced to remain in the illegal market, then we are either creating a system that allows the illegal market to continue to thrive or we are setting our selves up for severe economic fallout.

Creating a pathway to legal cannabis participation ONLY for those with acreage, considerable financial resources, and complex business acumen will force out the majority of our county's cannabis participants and relegate them to a limited number of low to medium paying jobs. This may truly be a death sentence for our county's economic prosperity similar to the demise of the lumber industry.

Please consider with all of your heart, the impact on thousands of lives and our county's economy if a path is not created for this large portion of our population to participate legally in the cannabis industry.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Jed Davis