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Planning & Building Services

>>> Ya Reinier <yareinier@gmail.com> 5/5/2021 4:42 PM >>>

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to give support for the recommendations put forward by MCA and CCAG. There will be far reaching impacts on our county based on how Phase 3 is implemented. These groups understand this and have spent so much time and work on ideas that are important to consider for the future of our county.

I am a cannabis cultivator going through the phase 1 permitting process. I have invested all of my time and resources into my farm and the permitting process. I want to see a clear and supported pathway for all cannabis cultivators wanting to pursue permitting. This will bring cultivators into the program and clarify enforcement efforts. This will protect our environment and bring in tax dollars.

Mendocino is a unique county in our state. We have a rich heritage of legacy growers. There is a lot of high quality craft cannabis being grown by small farmers all over our county. These cultivators are not only our history, but also our future. The cannabis they grow and their farming techniques, that have been learned through generations and among community members, are what will qualify Mendocino as a unique cannabis appellation. This will translate into a higher price when Mendocino cannabis is brought to market. This is the best way to ensure prosperity in our county.

I don't believe that cannabis grown on a scale over 1/2 acre is a good idea for Phase 3. I especially want to bring your attention to the issue of increased pest pressure and pollen drift that can have devastating impacts on cannabis farms. In the years that I have been growing, I have witnessed an alarming increase in pests. The most difficult to defend against are microscopic mites. These can travel on the wind or hitch rides on birds or other insects. By the time even a very experienced farmer can detect damage, it is very difficult to keep the mites from destroying an entire garden. Only the cleanest organic pesticides can be used on cannabis, so our options are limited.

I have also experienced having my flowers pollinated by a neighboring farm. Luckily it was not a large farm and luckily only one side of my garden was seeded. But these flowers essentially lost all value. Not even the extract market wanted flowers with seeds, since the seeds must be removed before extraction. It is agreed that cannabis pollen can travel substantially for 10 miles. Large scale grows could easily pollinate neighboring farms and make their flowers worthless.

Let's invest in the quality craft cannabis that has made our county famous. Let's support the members of our communities that have been growing beautiful cannabis on beautiful farms for many years. Let's make sure that our county's excellent reputation is solidified into a cannabis appellation that will bring us all prosperity long into the future. Let's take care of the beautiful environment in this county that we call home.

Thank you,

Ya Reinier
