

Julie Patterson-Hunter

From: Julie Patterson-Hunter
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 8:00 AM
To: All BOS Board Members
Cc: Rick Haffey; Alison Lehman; Alison Barratt-Green; Sean Powers; Mali Dyck
Subject: FW: Nevada County Cannabis Alliance

Dist 4

From: Hank Weston
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 7:48 AM
To: Julie Patterson-Hunter <Julie.Patterson-Hunter@co.nevada.ca.us>
Subject: Fw: Nevada County Cannabis Alliance

From: Pat Rockwell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 7:31 AM
To: Hank Weston
Subject: Nevada County Cannabis Alliance

Dear Mr. Weston,

I want to thank you for the support of the CAG process in the last year and your openness to regulating cannabis in our county. We are all encouraged by this dialog.

What I would like to comment on is the proposal of granting Commercial Medical licenses only in Nevada County's first ordinance.

First, it is important to understand the distinction between Non-remunerative medical growing and Commercial medical cultivation. I won't go into this differentiation at this point since it is or will be covered by other folks. What I would like to focus on are the two types of Commercial licenses granted by the state: Medical and Adult-Use.

Per legislation, State Commercial Cultivation Regulations are exactly the same for Medical and Adult-Use licenses. This includes security, water, track and trace, and testing requirements. It does not matter if you are growing for the Adult-Use market or for the Medical market.

The major distinction in the two Commercial license types is only where our product can be sold.

My farm grows THC and CBD strains. Both are needed by patients in the Medical market and both are desired by people in Adult-Use market - for mostly the same reasons. For example, a patient who has been diagnosed with PTSD uses a certain strain for anxiety. And my next-door neighbor rolls a joint of the exact same strain and takes a puff to relax after work. We would like our medicine to be available for both types of clients.

It is already difficult for small cultivators to compete in this new market, especially due to the removal of the one-acre cap. By limiting Commercial licenses to Medical only, small farmers will be excluded from a large segment of the market that will be fully exploited by large commercial enterprises. Right now, Medical is a 20-year established market with clear avenues of distribution. However, the University of California Agricultural

Resource Center projects that within one year the Medical market will account for only 9% of total sales. ** <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-pot-economic-study-20170611-story.html>

You may hear that Medical only will reduce the green rush. This is a false statement. None of us want the green rush. However, limiting the county permits to just Medical will only reduce market access for our local farmers. We can reduce the green rush by having residency requirements, limiting the size of allowably cultivation to only the small licenses types and also by limiting the number of licenses that one entity can hold to four.

We recognize that county staff is spread thin and are working diligently to have the ordinance completed in the Spring. At the last meeting staff told you that it would be better to put off Adult-Use to expedite the ordinance. In reality, allowing both Commercial Adult-Use and Medical licenses will result in no additional resources, time or money. It comes down to a question of supporting measures that will help assure our local farmers are successful. Please do not create unnecessary barriers to entry into the marketplace for farmers. If farmers are allowed to grow but have additional barriers to enter the marketplace they won't be as likely to succeed, and the money and time the county has spent on this process will be a waste of taxpayer money.

We are requesting you to be forward-thinking and not limit our Nevada County cultivators to the Commercial Medical market only. By including Commercial Adult-use permits, you will give us a chance to diversify and to sell our product legally in all available markets. Without Medical and Adult-use licenses, the chance of unregulated cultivation is more likely. The incentive to enter the regulated market could be diluted by limiting our market share and may force some cultivators back to a gray/black market.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to voice these concerns and for your ongoing willingness to encourage our small farmers to enter the regulated market.

Patricia Rockwell
District 4