



AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-4

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: April 5, 2016

Date: March 29, 2016
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Ryan Sundberg and Supervisor Estelle Fennell
Subject: Letter of Support for AB 2516 (Wood) – Cottage Cannabis Farmer Licensing

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA) of 2015 provides for the licensure of commercial medical cannabis activities. The MRRSA establishes various types of state cultivator licenses and tasks the California Department of Food and Agriculture with issuing licenses to qualified applicants. As the current MMRSA tiered licensing structure only allows for the smallest licensing tier of less than or equal to 5,000 feet or 50 mature plants on noncontiguous plots, AB 2516 would create, within the existing MMRSA licensing framework, a new licensing category; a specialty cottage license which would allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop regulations and requirements with the specialty needs of this unique group of cultivators.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature Ryan Sundberg
Signature Estelle Fennell

REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Bass
Ayes Sundberg, Fennell, Lovelace, Bohn, Bass
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: April 5, 2016
By: [Signature]
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

April 5, 2016

Assembly Member Jim Wood
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

RE: Support for AB 2516 (Wood) – Cottage Cannabis Farmers

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I am writing in full support of AB 2516. As you know, many medical cannabis farmers in Humboldt County grow a small number of cannabis plants on relatively small plots of land.

AB 2516 would create, within the existing Medical Marijuana Regulations and Safety Act (MRRSA) of 2015 licensing framework, a new licensing category which would allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop regulations and requirements with the special needs of small cannabis cultivators in mind.

The creation of a cottage license that provides a viable pathway to compliance for the small farmers that operate throughout the state will maximize the number of businesses that come into compliance, and fulfills the MMRSA purpose to ensure the medical cannabis industry adheres to strict standards designed to create safer neighborhoods, a cleaner environment, and a more consumer friendly industry.

Thank you for sponsoring this very important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Lovelace, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

ML:kh