

PLN-2020-16479

To: County of Humboldt Planning Commission
Humboldt County Courthouse Aug 20, 2020
825 5th Street, Eureka, Ca 95551

From: Huber C&D
Po Box 882, Garberville, Ca, 95542

Dear Planning Commission,

We are writing in firm opposition to the proposed Financial Security amendments ordinance which would require paid security bonds from all legal Cannabis farmers in the County to ensure payment of the county's excise tax.

Please stop treating legal cannabis farmers differently than you do other businesses. It is time to move on from this discriminatory attitude toward cannabis farmers that assumes they are criminals first, and law abiding tax payers second. These brave folks are the only lifeline for our struggling economy. Don't bite the hand that feeds us. For the county to add another expense to the ongoing compliance burden of these farmers is incredibly unfair and short sighted. There are criminals and bad actors in every industry, but the attitude of the planning department seems to be that the entire cannabis industry is composed of criminals and bad actors which I think warrants some self reflection.

Your efforts to continually move the ball on regulations has cost these business owners over and over. Every change leads to increased costs in professional consultation fees, having to re-design previously approved project documents, not to mention lost revenue due to planning department delays on infrastructure changes that would have improved their efficiency, but are now on hold due to regulatory changes that did not exist at the time the infrastructure was proposed.

The first year that you implement this scheme will require people to effectively pay the tax twice in the same year. It removes months of available timeline to decide how much the farmer is going to be able to cultivate the following year. If we have a drought, and people have to reduce their square footage due to lack of rainwater captured, they will not have the opportunity to make the adjustment because they will have already paid the fees for more square footage. Many people do not sell their crop until after the first of the year, so may not have the funds to pre-pay the fee.

For all taxpayers, late penalties already exist for those who fail to pay ontime. For cannabis farmers unpaid taxes already put their permit at risk. A bond should only be required for those who have failed to pay their fees.

Respectfully,

Ross Huber
Huber C&D