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Damico, Tracy

**From:** Anthony Finno <anthony@wearepgp.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 1:32 PM  
**To:** COB  
**Subject:** Comments re: Agenda Item # 22-1357

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Name: Anthony Finno  
Agenda Item # 22-1357  
Title: Update and Possible Board Action on Cannabis Excise Tax Reduction Program

My name is Anthony Finno, and I am the Executive Director at Primary Growth Partners, based in Southern California.

We're a brand development and marketing company serving distinct groups of cannabis consumers. We source unique genetics, pair them with our trademarked brands, and license this package to our plant-touching licensees throughout the United States. You may be surprised that we value genetics for the same reason as breeders and farmers do. Our business depends upon products that consistently meet the needs of our customers. Because genetics greatly contribute to determining a plant's characteristics **our livelihood depends upon stable, high-quality genetics.**

Without the confidence that the product *in* our package can meet the promise *on* our package, we cannot participate in the cannabis industry.

Decades of breeding and plant development in Humboldt County has established Humboldt as **the defacto safe deposit of the world's most diversified cannabis varieties.**

At a societal and enterprise level, the benefits and potential benefits of cannabis can be ensured by **guaranteeing that Humboldt breeders and farmers have a strong position in the supply chain.** To empower these farmers' full participation and influence, we say fund, fund, fund the programs that support an **absolutely essential** part of this industry.

Primary Growth Partners is **not** here to support taxation on farmers. Farmers need to reinvest their profits into fortifying/developing their businesses against an increasingly competitive marketplace. Instead of putting the burden on farmers, we ask the Board of Supervisors to look to other primary sources for funding for these programs. **We strongly urge the Board to make a motion in support of the staff report to expand Project Trellis,** to cover not only cultivation and commodity market strategies, but to include programs that will stabilize the cannabis economy. A thriving cannabis economy is rooted in craft cannabis products, cannabis tourism, cannabis business education, and cannabis community events such as festivals, high-value cultivar auctions, strain licensing events, or public genetics sales.

Please direct the staff to be more creative and find funding for these programs **outside of the taxation of farmers.** We thank you for your support of this motion.

Thank you for your service.

Kind regards,

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Anthony Finno,  
Executive Director