



March 24, 2023

General Government Committee
Board of Supervisors
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1070
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Item 2b (Regular Meeting – March 27, 2023)

To the Honorable Members of the General Government Committee:

The Department of Cannabis Control is grateful for, and encouraged by, the collaborative and productive engagement that has occurred between Mendocino County and the Department in recent weeks. In that spirit of partnership, we write to encourage the County to use Item 2b as an opportunity to align state and local law regarding unlicensed cannabis cultivation.

Specifically, we encourage the County to require state cannabis licensure as a matter of local law. Under state law, it is illegal to engage in any commercial cannabis activity, including cultivation, without a state cannabis license. However, as we understand it, Mendocino County does not currently require state licensure as a matter of local law. Thus, there may be some in Mendocino County who have received local authorization to cultivate cannabis, and who are in fact cultivating cannabis, even though their cultivation of cannabis in the absence of a state license is flatly illegal under state law. We urge the County to align state and local law in this respect.

Thank you again for your partnership. We look forward to continuing to work with you in our shared effort to strengthen the legal cannabis market and combat the illicit market.

Respectfully,

Nicole Elliott
Director, Department of Cannabis Control