

**From:** Renee O'Neill <chasingstar2701@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2022 4:32 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Villalobos, David  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item # D3, Cannabis Taxation Options, May 17, 2022  
**Attachments:** BOS re Taxing growers, 05-16-2022.docx



**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please find my letter (attached and embedded) to submit to the BOS for public comment. I am aware this one-page letter may be too late to submit before the deadline but I would appreciate it if you would add my letter to public comment, anyways.  
 Thank You:

May 16, 2022

To: Board of Supervisors  
 Re: Cannabis Tax Revenue - Agenda Item # D3  
 From: Renée O’Neill

Honorable Chair, Joan Hartmann and Supervisors,

I want to add my voice in support of the SB Coalition, Marc Chytilo and all who write or speak in favor of taxing the cannabis industry by square footage or cultivated acreage, as most other counties do.

A little history: In December 2017, when P&D and BOS started developing cannabis tax ordinances, you were provided with various options for ‘cannabis-related revenue and fee estimates,’ as well as an economic and taxation analysis report by HdL. In addition, staff recommended establishing a ‘gross receipts tax measure’ (General or Special) and as I recall, had to rush to get this measure on the June 2018 ballot.

I voted for the Special Tax Measure because I wanted to ensure the cannabis revenue would be strictly allocated for cannabis oversight, enforcement, etc. Our community and many others throughout our county are still suffering from Class-I Negative Impacts, which should have been avoided.

consequences of non-compliant and/or illicit growers. Unfortunately, most people voted for the General tax and then, in 2019(?) the BOS developed the ‘One-Time-Use-Tax,’ ordinance.

As this process was being fine-tuned, many of us supported taxing cannabis according to square footage or cultivated acreage. However, the BOS decided to use an “honor system” for growers to report their profits. Honestly!?! This is akin to putting a fox in charge of the hen house!

In regard to the Indy article, one only has to look at the photo that clearly demonstrates the level of destruction on *just one* of many parcels that Dayspring operated on in our community. To the best of my knowledge, it appears that the County, USFS and/or USFW may not have fined and/or required Dayspring to ‘clean up his

act,' yet. He should be held accountable and make restitution for all violations he's committed on his abandoned grow sites, in Tepusquet.

Lastly, due to 'cart-before-the-horse tactics,' loose regulations, failure to hire adequate staff and law enforcement to oversee the industry, the BOS must also accept their share of responsibility, for failing to listen to our pleas and protect the health, welfare and safety of their constituent's. I strongly believe it is your responsibility to use your authority and require growers like Dayspring to 'clean up their acts.' You may wish to consider using cannabis revenues and/or money from the "one-time-tax-use," to remedy this.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renée O'Neill

<https://www.independent.com/2022/05/12/dayspring-associate-drops-north-county-cannabis-application/>



**Dayspring Associate Drops North County Cannabis Application - The Santa ...**

The effort to grow pot east of Tepusquet Canyon ended.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Renée O'Neill*

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