

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

LATE DIST

From: João Pedro Nascimento <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:04 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Objection to Amendment to County Land Use Ordinance and Development Code

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Jacquelyne Alexander,

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

As a member of the community and a supporter of regulated cannabis farming in Santa Barbara County, I urge you to reject changes to permitting and business policies that would further impede this burgeoning crop in our county.

A poll of County voters overwhelmingly support (68%) extending right to farm protections for cannabis farmers; in the eyes of many, as was deemed by Governor Newsom last year, cannabis, though new and emerging, is an agricultural crop in California. Cannabis provides farmers the opportunity to grow a clean, organic crop, free of pesticides and with a reduced impact on natural resources.

Many of our local cannabis farms are owned by small, independent farmers who have followed regulatory protocols in good faith though incurring substantial and hindering costs. Another change to this ordinance threatens their ability to pursue their own livelihood, and to continue to both provide year-round and good paying jobs within our communities while also supporting local auxiliary businesses in industries ranging from agricultural supplies to restaurants.

In rebudgeting amidst the wake of COVID-19, your fellow supervisors have acknowledged the importance of revenues stemming from cannabis farming. As you again consider staff reports surrounding commercial cannabis activity, I urge you not to amend cannabis farming regulations in such a manner that would disrupt or jeopardize local jobs and residual revenue which is essential to supporting county programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

João Pedro Nascimento
crocodilo12000@hotmail.com
Av Marcus Vinicius vale
Braganca Paulista, Tocantins 12916430