



April 11th, 2022

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the proposed Urgency Ordinance and urge you to vote no on a moratorium that would stop all pending applications. My name is Autumn Karcey and I am the owner of Lake County Development Company, we currently have four pending cannabis projects that were originally submitted in 2020.

It was a great surprise to see a proposal like this come forward after so much progress has been made in the Community Development Department in recent months. I would like to personally acknowledge the new Cannabis Program Manager, Andrew Amelung, for the professionalism and care he has brought to his role. As an applicant, we are now receiving regular status updates, and getting answers to our questions. A moratorium would interrupt a program that is just starting to become functional and jeopardize over 100 pending projects.

What I want to emphasize to the Board is that the status of a project may or may not have anything to do with how compliant and environmentally efficient a project is; many projects have been delayed for reasons entirely out of an applicant's control: staff turnover, the hiring of a third-party consultant, and the many updates to the cultivation ordinance that have changed the requirements for applicants.

After moving the goalpost many times, it isn't fair and it isn't right to suddenly close the door on every single pending project. This moratorium is a blind ban on all pending projects, whether or not they may have ample water available onsite. Site-specific review is a far more appropriate way to regulate water availability and usage.

Our farms are deeply committed to sustainability in every part of our operations – from organic growing methods to solar power and water conservation techniques. We believe in taking care of the land so that it can support many generations to come. We, as cannabis farmers and stewards of the land, are prepared to comply with any necessary drought mitigation measures to ensure that we are protecting the County's watershed.

We ask that you continue to process all pending permits. Please base your decisions on the discretionary review process and the science that supports best management practices, not a reactionary moratorium that just creates new problems rather than solving the existing ones.

Lake County is a special place and has a prime climate for growing high quality cannabis. As experienced industry veterans, with current contracts in place we know that we have demand for every pound we can grow. We are ready to claim this appellation proudly and lift up the entire county through a vibrant, sustainable cannabis industry. As members of this community and as the potential employers of dozens of families, we hope to be here 10 years from now, working with you side by side towards sustainable climate solutions.



Regards,

Autumn Karcey

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