



**December 17, 2024**

Lake County Board of Supervisors  
255 N Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

Dear Supervisors Sabatier, Crandell, Pyska, Simon and Green,

The Community Action Project (CAP), in Lake County, California, has recently formed to offer community members an organized voice in important policy matters impacting the economy, environment, and quality of life in Lake County. Our initial focus has been on the Lake County 2050 General Plan Update and the Cannabis Ordinance Task Force (COTF). The purpose of this letter is to provide specific input related to recent experiences with the COTF in the context of today's Board of Supervisors' agenda item: the COTF update.

We have been actively attending COTF meetings and providing written input prior to each meeting in response to the agenda set by staff. We want to make it clear from the start that CAP is not an anti-cannabis organization.

We are seeking active dialogue aimed at reforming a failing cannabis policy in Lake County that mirrors the broader failure throughout the state of California.

When Proposition C passed in November 2018, the initiative was sold to voters with the expectation that cannabis farming in Lake County would result in an average of \$8 million or more in annual cannabis tax revenue. Since then, the county has approved over 150 licenses for an estimated 20 million square feet (575 acres) of cannabis cultivation - this should generate more than \$10M dollars in taxes. Yet the tax collector recently reported 2023 taxes at \$2.3M - a near 80% decline due to crop reduction and opt-outs. According to the recently published Lake County Agricultural Report for 2023, cannabis farming makes a negligible contribution to the county's \$140 million agricultural industry; the cannabis industry is failing economically for the majority of growers in Lake County.

CAP is committed to being a constructive contributor to the process as there is an urgent need for cannabis policy reform in Lake County. We assumed the guidelines in the County's Code of

Conduct for committee members - fairness, impartiality, active listening and consideration of all points of view - would foster an atmosphere conducive to resolving cannabis issues. However, while some COTF members are more open to public input than others, numerous attempts to enter the policy dialogue have left many members of the public feeling disenfranchised. There are also concerns regarding how the meetings are conducted. COTF meetings do not follow any organized meeting format, such as Rosenberg's Rules of Order, which typically define public meeting protocol in the State of California. CAP is additionally concerned with the tangible conflicts within COTF that fail to meet the FPPC standards governing conflicts of interest.

Since your board approved the original cannabis ordinance, Lake County residents have experienced challenges associated with commercial cannabis cultivation and are eager to have these issues addressed in a revised cannabis ordinance.

CAP is requesting that the current COTF process be discontinued and replaced by one that represents the entire community and follows proper protocol for public meetings and the management of conflicts of interest.

In closing, CAP is supportive of a cannabis policy that balances the needs of the county, the cannabis industry, the communities and the environment. We are opposed to the current flawed and counterproductive COTF process. We look forward to assisting the county address the valid concerns of residents and those outside of the cannabis industry.

Sincerely,

Peter Luchetti

Angela Amaral

Jesse Cude

Holly Harris

Margaux Kambara

Tom Lajcik

Chuck Lamb

Monica Rosenthal