

To: Lake County Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Spencer Brown, and I am writing today not only as a veteran who served this country with honor, but as someone who has had the privilege of working alongside John and personally knowing Justin for many years. I respectfully oppose the staff recommendation regarding the revocation of Pillsbury Family Farms' permit.

I have witnessed firsthand the birth of Pillsbury Family Farms and the difficult, uphill battle these individuals have faced in their effort to come into compliance with California's legal cannabis framework. What may look like simple "non-compliance" on paper fails to reflect the full truth: these men have poured their lives, their labor, and their love into building something meaningful—not just for themselves, but for their community.

As a veteran, I believe in rehabilitation, second chances, and the ability of a person to grow beyond their past. Justin is a living example of this. He made the difficult decision to confront his past, take responsibility, and take all the necessary legal steps to have his record expunged. That in itself is not a loophole—it's a sign of personal growth and a legitimate legal process that reflects his progress and commitment to being a contributing member of society. We should be applauding these efforts, not weaponizing them against him.

The continued stigmatization of expunged records—especially in the cannabis space, where so many were criminalized for something now being taxed and regulated—is both unjust and counterproductive. Justin did what many never attempt: he changed the narrative. He did the work. He followed the process. And now, rather than being supported, he is being targeted by a process that seems more punitive than fair.

This misuse of criminal background checks and the dismissal of legitimate expungement processes raises serious concerns about bias and due process. If we claim to support reentry, if we believe in rehabilitation, and if we are building a future cannabis industry that is inclusive and just—then we must start walking the talk. Otherwise, what message are we sending to anyone else trying to turn their life around?

John and Justin are family men, community-minded individuals, and hard workers. They have overcome adversity with dignity, and they deserve to be recognized for that—not torn down because of old narratives that no longer fit the reality of who they are today.

As someone who put on a uniform and defended the rights of others, I ask this Board to stand for fairness. Break the stigma. Respect the legal power of expungement. Please reconsider the staff's recommendation in light of the bigger picture.

Sincerely,

Spencer Brown