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Board of Supervisors
County of Lake
255 Forbes St.
Lakeport, CA 95453

Re: Letter of support for Highland Farms cultivation project (UP 20-96)

Dear Chairman Sabatier and Honorable Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to write this recommendation letter supporting Highland Farms cultivation project UP 20-96 and Ms. Autumn Karcey.

I am an Associate Professor at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel, where I have been heading the Laboratory of Cancer Biology and Cannabinoid Research for the past ten years. I am well-recognized and considered a leader in cannabis research for many years now. My lab investigates the therapeutic potential of compounds from *cannabis* and has published over 50 peer review papers regarding their effects in various types of cancer, inflammatory diseases and disorders of the nervous system. We collaborate with numerous medical farms, growers, and manufacturing companies that play vital roles in the cultivation, processing, and production of cannabis products. I am also highly involved in governmental regulations and is a residing member in several Israeli Ministry of Health committees that seek to advance the fundamental understanding of medical cannabis.

I was approached by Ms. Autumn Karcey and would like to advocate her skills and experience in designing cultivation sites. I first met Ms. Karcey in 2015, when she accompanied to Tel Aviv our mutual colleague and friend Tracy Ryan, the CEO of CannaKids, a California based medical cannabis company. Cannakids was founded when her 8-month old daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and the purpose of the trip was to bring a tissue sample of her daughter's optic pathway glioma tumor to exam it at my lab.

From the moment I first met Ms. Karcey it was clear that her passion and dedication to bringing a better understanding of the medical benefits of cannabis is unwavering. Since that time, Ms. Karcey and I have become friends and colleagues, meeting and conversing

at numerous scientific cannabis conferences internationally. I have been closely following Ms. Karcey's work and visited her a few times at different cultivation locations, where she was in charge of designing and building innovative and state-of-the-art cannabis farms and growing facilities. Ms. Karcey's company Cultivo, Inc. was the first of its kind, specializing in building highly controlled clean room indoor cultivation facilities and manufacturing labs. Their guiding principles created a stable and consistent environment that allowed to cultivate and study cannabis genetics. In turn, this approach created consistent medical cannabis plants.

Notably, Ms. Karcey's development role at Highland Farms is also an integral part of the Artemis Co-Pack manufacturing facility, which encompasses three multi-acre farms spanning multiple farming operations. These projects are inherently interconnected, working intrinsically together.

On a personal note, Ms. Karcey's is one of the kindest, most generous, and compassionate individuals I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. She is involved in numerous volunteer initiatives, consistently dedicating her time and efforts to support those in need, and demonstrating the highest level of commitment to the community. She is a highly esteemed kind of person that everyone loves, and I think of her as someone of remarkable integrity and character.

Lake County is fortunate to have Ms. Karcey's dedication, wealth of experience, and business savvy. I believe the farm at Highland Springs is remarkably innovative, and could impact the lives of countless medicinal cannabis patients. The potential benefits of Highland Farms cultivation project for commercial cannabis make it a valuable asset, one that will allow to develop and secure a unique genetic stock and a reference point for cannabis farming, ultimately advancing patient care and improving outcomes in the field of medical cannabis.

Sincerely,



David Meiri, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology