

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing this letter as a Black resident of Lake County who knows Justin, Sky, and John—and who fully supports Pillsbury Family Farms. I stand in strong opposition to the staff recommendation to deny their permit.

What's happening here doesn't just affect their business—it affects all of us who are trying to turn our lives around and participate in a legal industry that was built, in many ways, off the backs of people who once got criminalized for the same work. As someone with a record who has to get an expungement, I can see that I will not be allowed to seek job employment on a legal cannabis farm even if I qualify for a records expungement. As long as we have a director like Turner, she won't allow people like me to enter into the cannabis sector—even if we get a qualified expungement through the court process.

That reality is heartbreaking. People like Justin have done the work. He followed the law, got his record expunged, and tried to build something lawful, healing, and community-driven. Denying him now sends a message that even when Black and brown folks do everything right, it still won't be enough. It's a modern-day gatekeeping that keeps people like us out of the very opportunities we were promised would come with "reform."

Pillsbury Family Farms is more than a cannabis business. It's a place rooted in family, hard work, and second chances. I've seen their heart, their integrity, and their commitment to doing things the right way. Denying them this opportunity is denying Lake County the progress it so badly needs.

I ask you to do what's right—not just for them, but for everyone watching this decision and wondering if the door is truly open for us.

Sincerely,

[Joel Allen ]

Lake County Resident & Advocate for Equity in Cannabis

P.S. I hope you find it in your heart to do the right thing so it doesn't discourage the next person such as myself to go after a dream and That's having my own cannabis manufacturing company