

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

My wife and I were recently notified by a neighbor that an 11 acre vineyard to the east of our property, known as 4016 Fracchia road, was in the process of being purchased with the intent of converting it into a commercial cannabis operation. We were both very shocked and quite concerned with this prospect. We were unaware that this could even be a possibility as the vineyard is completely surrounded on all sides by a residential neighborhood.

We understand that commercial cannabis is now a State approved business, but we don't believe this is an appropriate location for it. Unlike a vineyard, cannabis produces a finished product that is considered a controlled, dangerous substance by both the State of California and the Federal government and does not belong where children live and play. We believe there are many negative aspects to a commercial cannabis operation in our residential neighborhood, the eyesore of a vineyard that has been replaced by hoop houses and the objectionable odor of cannabis would negatively affect both our quality of life and the value of our property. There is no denying cannabis attracts a criminal element, no one comes armed and dangerous trying to steal grapes but we have heard and read many local news reports over the years about cannabis growers being robbed and even killed, sometimes by the very people they hire to work for them. As residents of Fracchia road our property borders the vineyard as do many residences on both Fracchia and Bisby roads. We do not wish to be the security buffer for a commercial cannabis operation. Based on a petition we signed we believe our community is united in wanting to protect our families and property from the undesirable effects and inherent hazards of an operation of this nature.

For these reasons we ask you to approve our application to designate our neighborhood a Cannabis Prohibition District. Looking at the County CPD website information it seems the existing Woodyglen CPD could be extended east to include our neighborhood. If this is not possible we ask you to create a new CPD that protects the properties of Fracchia and Bisby roads from commercial cannabis operations.

Sincerely,

James O'Brien and Masumi O'Brien

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*10/4/2019*