August 1, 2025

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

Re: August 5, 2025 Agenda Item 6.8 Support

To the Honorable Chairman Crandell and Board of Supervisors,

I am in support of the Interim Urgency Ordinance placing a moratorium on the issuance of Use Permits for commercial cannabis cultivation within the unincorporated area of Lake County and existing applications that are not complete.

Pushing through an ordinance that does not serve the best needs of all Lake County can have long lasting impacts. Lake County was inundated with approximately 300 applications without the opportunity to have policy, procedure and county staffing in place for a new commercial enterprise approved in 2016. Staffing is not only required to process the applications but also to oversee that the approved management plans are in compliance as well code enforcement.

Because cannabis is a controlled substance additional regulations need to be in place for cultivation, production and distribution. Potential negative impacts exist to residential neighbors, schools and the valuable Lake County scenic views. It is extremely important that the entire population of Lake County have an equal say and input.

Cannabis tax revenues for 2024 have been thrown around as the reason for quickly approving the draft ordinance. Per the Lake County financial report as of June 30, 2024 the cannabis tax revenue was only .011% of total revenue or, $2.5 million from from what I understand is the 150 cannabis applications already approved. The largest source of Lake County, and its discretionary funds, actually comes from property taxes, 14.9% at $33 million. Approximately $1.9 million is paid by the residents of the Clearlake Oaks Keys.

Cannabis tax revenues have not been as projected. A glut in the cannabis market prompted the Cannabis cultivators to request reduction and deferral of taxes. Lake County granted both with a temporary reduction in cultivation tax by 50% and reduced the tax to cannabis canopy only, not the total acreage of the property. Like alcohol and tobacco, cannabis is subject to additional taxes. These taxes are not just for revenue generation but also to offset potential negative societal costs with cannabis such as addiction, impaired decision making, or increased demand for public health. What is the amount of unpaid, deferred and past due cannabis taxes as of today?

I urge you to act prudently and approve the moratorium.

Sincerely,

Pamela L Kicenski
Clearlake Oaks Resident