

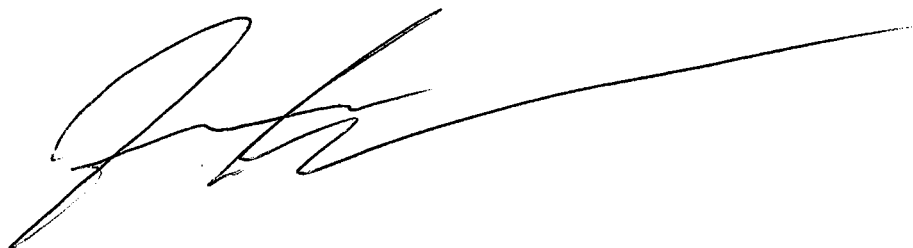
Dear Mr. Mayor and esteemed Council Members-

Thank you for your continued service to our community by giving your time, leaning on your experiences, and working collectively to enhance this great city and coastline!

The cannabis industry in California is in chaos. As we transition to the compliant and regulated market place on this frontier, there are many obstacles still in front of us. Four years ago, different municipalities and local governments looked at the cannabis industry as an easy way to improve the bottom line. Or, concluded no interest in addressing the issues and decided to ban. Fast forward to present day, many of these municipalities are now reconsidering these decisions that they put into place just a few years back. The city of Fort Bragg has had the wherewithal and wisdom to be out ahead of the curve regulating this industry. I would like to encourage the council to keep this mindset when it considers taxes, fees and levees on operators of this industry and ultimately, it's consumers.

Fort Bragg's economy has not had the advantages of other regions of the state. In as much, to encourage the novel economies legalized cannabis offers to enrich our community with, substantial taxation will inhibit the growth of workforces and employ of new staff as these businesses struggle to gain a foothold in the extraordinarily competitive state market. I would like to encourage our city leadership to look at this industry and the operators in it as they would any other compliant business. Not as a specific component of the economy that can be leveraged more than another.

We advocate for strong examination of tax programs: it does not seem cannabis should be taxed unilaterally. With so much transition and instability in the marketplace I would encourage you to wait and give this fledgling compliant industry a chance to gain a toehold before another fee is imposed. At very least, it reasonable as to not jump to alarm & close opportunities before they have begun in earnest. We support a moratorium on tax evaluations for cannabis, to be discussed again once market stabilization has occurred.

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