



May 29, 2019

Dear Plumas County Supervisors,

I have been contacted by NORML members who live in Plumas County regarding the ordinance banning industrial hemp cultivation that is on your agenda for June 4.

I consider this ordinance ill conceived, poorly timed, and an overreaction that will cause harm to Plumas County and its residents.

State law, starting with Prop. 64 in 2016 and SB 1403 last year, established regulations for cultivating industrial hemp, as has the California Department of Food and Agriculture, which has issued an application for registration that farmers can take to their local Ag Commissioners now under current law. In order to conform with the 2018 US Farm Bill, as of last Thursday, CDFA is fast tracking emergency regulations going forward (see below).

To say that hemp cannot be distinguished from high-THC cannabis is incorrect. A simple laboratory test will do the trick, as will the registration of seeds with the Ag commissioner. Similarly, a simple phone call to an educational institution can verify a crop's status as an agricultural project.

Please don't take this action right now. A 45-day moratorium will put farmers who are just now planting their crops out of business for all of 2019. Plumas county should move forward with permitting industrial hemp farms through the process set up by CDFA through its Ag commissioner.

It's sad to me that after 52% of Plumas residents voted for Prop. 64, and 57% of the state did, the good citizens of Plumas are being forced to beg to grow cannabis, only if it contains very little THC. Our organization and others have worked hard to bring cannabis out of the shadows of the black market and into the light of regulation where it is not a public safety concern. Don't let the prejudice and backward-thinking of some halt that progress in Plumas.

Our office is always available for consultation on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen Komp". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Ellen Komp
Deputy Director, California NORML