



June 9, 2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Outdoor Requirement for Cannabis of Appellation of Origins

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to you today to urge you to consider pushing forward a statutory fix as it relates to California's Appellation of Origins (AO) program that you have championed for the past few years. In light of recently proposed CDFA AO regulations, it has been brought to our Board's attention that there is a critical flaw in the proposed plan that must be fixed for the program to have value and integrity moving forward.

We are respectfully requesting that the statute be amended to reserve AO designations exclusively for cannabis that is planted in-ground, in open-air, with no use of artificial light during the flowering stage of cultivation.

This statutory clarification would mandate that appellations must meet this baseline standard and, in turn, act to incentivize the program by adding value to the most environmentally friendly production methods. Such production methods are deeply rooted in the regenerative farming movement and truly reflect the farming practices of the original back to the landers for which Humboldt County and the Emerald Triangle is world-renowned. Additionally, tying appellations to the sun and the soil ensures that appellation products are truly reflective of the natural environment in which they're grown, ensuring the integrity of appellations and their close relationship with the land.

This change will help our county, region, and state further advance our commitment to confront global climate change and secure our collective future through meaningful and immediate action.

Due to the public health and economic crisis in which we currently find ourselves, we believe it is our responsibility as policymakers to develop creative policy that can advance rural economic development without depleting the state's limited financial resources. This request is non-fiscal and does just that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors