

Late Submission Item
24-2142
12/11/24 Meeting



2460 Headington Road
Placerville, CA 95667-5216
Phone: 530.622.7773
Fax: 530.622.7839
Email: info@edcfb.com

Attention: EDC Agricultural Commissioners
RE: 12/11/24 Agenda Item #5 (File # 2142) Hemp

December 11, 2024

Dear Agricultural Commissioners,

I did not have a strong objection to the action by the Board of Supervisors yesterday to pause the pilot program. I do, however, have concerns about the fairness of the process and some improper assumptions that cannot go unchallenged.

The Board of Supervisors directed the Ag Commission and the Economic Development Committee to develop a pilot program for this federally designated agricultural crop. They did that in coordination with the Agricultural Department and with great participation from agricultural stakeholders. Well thought out experiments were conducted to ensure that there were no impacts to existing county commodities.

Paramount in this process is the preservation of the substantial work product contributed by this multi-year effort. At yesterday's BOS meeting verbal assurances were given about how easy a restart could be achieved. I ask this Commission to confirm and clarify that understanding.

Our county leaders need to move beyond decision making on outdated and anecdotal information about the distinguishing nature of the native plant. Just because it looks similar to its intoxicant neighbor cannabis should not eliminate it from the crop diversity this county desperately needs.

Furthermore, the assertions that the pilot program had little interest from applicants are wrong and demonstrate a lack of real world business understanding, or a lack of involvement from the Economic Development Division. I must remind you that at after the multi-year effort, the stakeholders, and this Commission were blindsided by a BOS agenda item to ban Hemp. What business minded farmer would make a financial commitment after that move?

Just to be clear, I am not challenging the decision to pause the pilot program, I am questioning the information used in that decision. The base assumptions similarly used to justify a significant multi-year effort on Ranch Marketing were wrong, hurts our industry and escalated conflicts between neighbors with repeated public venues with no measurable results.

*Protect, promote, and enhance the economic opportunities and long-term viability
for El Dorado County farmers, ranchers, and foresters.*



2460 Headington Road
Placerville, CA 95667-5216
Phone: 530.622.7773
Fax: 530.622.7839
Email: info@edcfb.com

Diversity in our agriculture economy makes El Dorado County more resilient to variations in other agriculture market segments. Hemp is a promising and emerging industry that has some loopholes that are expected to be fixed at the federal and state level.

I hope and expect that we can move forward at an appropriate time and with more evidence based decision-making.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Ranalli

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael Ranalli'.

President, El Dorado County Farm Bureau

Cc: El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner, LeeAnne Mila

*Protect, promote, and enhance the economic opportunities and long-term viability
for El Dorado County farmers, ranchers, and foresters.*