

L. Tannebaum Consent Calendar #9
BOS

April 20th 2023 – Re Agenda Item 23-805, Item 9.

The El Dorado Growers Alliance and some 3000 county voters who we represent are opposed to the supporting of SB 820, SB 753 and AB 1448. All of these are measures to allow for more strict rules to try and eliminate illegal cannabis grows. This will not work.

For millennia, government has tried to eliminate cultivation of a variety of crops, including cannabis. And for millennia, it has never worked. There have even been laws which allow for a death penalty to be incurred, it still does not stop illegal cultivation. Our country has gone to war over it and still we lost. Plain and simple, the “War on Drugs” has never worked.

What our county and other counties, law enforcement and state governing bodies need to realize is that this antiquated way of thinking has not and will not ever solve the problem. It has not for thousands of years, and it will not now.

What will eliminate this issue is for these governing bodies, and you, supervisors are to lessen regulation, taxes, and law enforcement of this problem and to make attaining a cannabis license of any kind easier and cheaper. While you may not understand this approach, let me share an analogy with you that you should.

In 1920, alcohol was made illegal in this country. For 12 years, law enforcement tried to stop the use of alcohol in this country. What happened was bodies like the mafia (now called cartels) were formed and the efforts of law enforcement and governments to stop the use of alcohol failed miserably. Cracking down harder has always backfired. Why is now different?

How did we, as a society, eliminate these illegal happenings? We made it easy to get alcohol. Illegal activities still happened, but where alcohol is legal today, you will rarely find an illegal still.

So, what can you do supervisors? Tell, and show Sacramento that you want to be a leader in the state. And show them how this county is willing to adopt kinder and easier laws to allow more folks to be legal in this industry. Lower our illegal cannabis grows by allowing folks who want to be legal have an easy and inexpensive path to get there.

When the cost of cannabis is lessened, and it is easy to get, illegal activities will go away. If I can go to a dispensary and easily, safely, and cheaply get medicine, I'll stop going to the illegal dealer down the street. Why, for the same reason people go to the liquor store instead of building a still. Easy access, less law intervention, lower costs (by elimination of so many taxes) will solve this issue that society has been trying to stop for as long as we have been a society.