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Date: 10/31/2017 1:50:45 PM
Subject: Cannabis Permitting Santa Cruz County

October 31, 2017

Re: Cannabis Permitting Santa Cruz County

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you today regarding the future ordinance for Santa Cruz County. A little background on my experience here locally... my family goes back 3 generations of Santa Cruz County Farmers. The Friesell family started here as Friesell Brothers, Inc and Robert Saunders back in the 1960s., when flower growers were devastated by the North American Free Trade Agreement. (At this time 95% of flower growers closed their doors and moved across the border.) However, I continued farming 100,000 square feet of Commercial Agriculture in the cut-flower business. I was previously a Director on the Farm Bureau and Water Board... and also on the CSFA for 2 counties helping farmers with grants and micro loans from the USDA.

The past 8 years I've learned the cannabis industry under a small canopy of indoor greenhouse space at one of my cut flower facilities. This location is 2.9 acres of agricultural land, which is completely covered in greenhouses and employs local families. The future ordinance being considered in Santa Cruz County will shut down this location if accepted. I am very diligent about permits, taxes, and upcoming regulations & retain experts in the field to help provide additional guidance with the changing need.

Please consider expanding the ordinance, to allow "current" Commercial Agricultural Greenhouse Zone "A" famers who are paying the taxes and retaining compliance to *continue* to grow without issues or complaints. I recommend a designated area of 5% minimum. I understand not every ordinance will fit... Please visit my location and meet my staff who total over 60 years of experience.

Respectfully,
Jon Friesell
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Aptos, CA 95001

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