



HUMBOLDT COUNTY

GROWERS ALLIANCE

January 31, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Growers Alliance (HCGA) and its members, we respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors agendaize an item by March 4, 2025, to address the growing concerns regarding outstanding Measure S cannabis cultivation tax payments.

As it currently stands, cultivators with unpaid Measure S taxes must pay their balances in full by **March 31, 2025**, or risk permit suspension and revocation. A **Public Records Act (PRA) request from November 2024** indicates that up to **75% of cannabis permits in Humboldt County carry outstanding tax debt**. Of 765 affected permits, 415 have entered into payment plans, while 350 have not.

Farmers are facing impossible financial choices:

- Paying outstanding Measure S taxes in full by the deadline,
- Covering costly state licensing fees, and
- Investing in the 2025 cultivation season—their only means of generating income.

Without action, a **significant percentage of Humboldt's cannabis farms** could face permit suspension, jeopardizing not just individual businesses, but the broader supply chain, workforce, and local economy.

Why This Matters:

- The financial strain on small farmers has been exacerbated by distributor defaults, natural disasters, the market crash, and burdensome regulatory costs.
- Some operators, who invested their life savings to become compliant, have since been forced to sell their properties—yet still owe past Measure S taxes.
- A weakened cannabis sector threatens **Humboldt's global reputation, economic stability, and community vitality**.

Given the scale of the issue and its economic implications, we urge the Board to prioritize this matter for public discussion.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to your consideration of this request. Please let us know how we can support efforts to bring this item forward for discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalynne DeLapp". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Natalynne DeLapp
Executive Director
Humboldt County Growers Alliance