



San Benito County Board of Supervisors

481 Fourth Street ▪ Hollister, CA 95023
www.cosb.us

Phone: (831) 636-4000 ♦ Fax: (831) 636-4010
supervisors@cosb.us

Mark Medina
District 1

Anthony Botelho
District 2

Peter Hernandez
District 3

Jim Gillio
District 4

Jaime De La Cruz
District 5

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Phillip Ting
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Assembly Bill 1356 - Oppose**

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

The San Benito County Board of Supervisors writes to express its strong opposition to Assembly Bill 1356, relating to commercial retail cannabis activity. Existing public policy allows local jurisdictions to regulate retail cannabis activity in the manner that best serves its communities at the local level, including prohibiting such activity. AB 1356 attempts to remove the local control that was to remain with the counties under the Medicinal and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (“Proposition 64”) through the imposition of a one-size-fits-all statewide standard, which disregards the local decision making of rural communities.

As outlined in AB 1356, if more than 50 percent of the votes of a local jurisdiction voted in favor of Proposition 64, these local jurisdictions must issue a minimum number of licenses authorizing local cannabis activity within that jurisdiction. This would require that San Benito County potentially provide two retail licenses in unincorporated areas based on the population of our County. As with many other rural counties, retail has established itself in incorporated areas, such as the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista, where there is a more extensive and denser population base that can support these retail endeavors.

We, along with the Rural County Representatives of California and the 36 rural counties it represents, believe that AB 1356 infringes on the local control that was provided for by Proposition 64. As outlined in RCRC’s April 12, 2019 letter, AB 1356 proposes a land use standard based on the results of a statewide ballot measure that’s primary purpose was to sanction adult use of cannabis. Additionally, the Legislature created a regulatory framework for

medical cannabis over a year before Proposition 64 being enacted. That legislatively-enacted framework serves as the basis of regulatory structure provided for in the adult-use scheme. In the construction of both contexts, the crafters recognized the need for local control, primarily as part of cities' and counties' land use authority.

Removing the local authorization rules afforded by Proposition 64 will be very problematic for Siskiyou County and other rural counties throughout California, and therefore we again express our opposition to AB 1356. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please contact Dulce Alonso, Management Analyst, at (831) 636-4000 or dalonso@cosb.us. This letter was approved by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors on May 21, 2019, with the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Mark Medina,
Chair of the Board of Supervisors
San Benito County

cc: Congressman Jimmy Panetta
Senator Anna Caballero
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties