



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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July 10, 2025

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6350
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 8 (Aguiar-Curry) – Cannabis: cannabinoids: industrial hemp – OPPOSE UNLESS
AMENDED
As Amended May 23, 2025

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, we respectfully oppose AB 8 unless it is amended.

Mendocino County acknowledges the urgent need to regulate intoxicating cannabinoids derived from industrial hemp. Before the Governor's emergency regulations were enacted, the unregulated and untaxed sale of high-THC hemp products, which were available to consumers of all ages, raised significant public health and safety concerns that required legislative action.

While we support the goal of creating a comprehensive regulatory framework, we are concerned that AB 8, in its current form, risks undermining the integrity of California's licensed cannabis market, especially in legacy-producing rural counties like Mendocino.

Mendocino County's licensed cannabis cultivators operate under some of the most stringent agricultural and environmental regulations in the state. These operators are already navigating severe economic headwinds, price compression, and market oversaturation. Allowing hemp-derived intoxicants—produced under far less scrutiny and regulation—to directly compete in this system threatens to destabilize the licensed cannabis sector further.

AB 8, in its current form, has the potential to create an uneven playing field. It risks giving hemp operators a competitive advantage by not subjecting them to the same level of regulation, oversight, and taxation. If we are to bring intoxicating hemp products under durable regulation, we must do so in a manner that preserves equity, maintains supply chain integrity, and avoids further harm to the struggling legal cannabis industry. By potentially permitting hemp-derived intoxicants—produced under a less regulated framework—into the cannabis supply chain, AB 8 could create a deeply inequitable market dynamic.

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Mendocino County shares the concerns raised jointly by the California Cannabis Operators Association (CaCOA) and the Origins Council, who collectively represent hundreds of licensed operators across the state. Specifically, we support the following shared priorities:

- **Restrict Integration to Non-Intoxicating Biomass:** AB 8 should limit hemp integration into the cannabis supply chain exclusively to verified, non-intoxicating hemp biomass (i.e., raw plant material with less than 0.3% total THC). The bill must not allow hemp-derived extracts or finished products—especially those containing intoxicating cannabinoids—to enter the regulated cannabis market.
- **Prohibit Hemp-Derived Extracts & Final Products:** To avoid undermining the licensed cannabis industry, AB 8 should prohibit the integration of raw hemp extracts or final form hemp products into the regulated cannabis supply chain.
- **Prevent Sale Outside Regulated Channels:** AB 8 must ensure intoxicating hemp products are not sold outside the licensed cannabis retail system (e.g., gas stations, smoke shops, liquor stores) and provide strong enforcement mechanisms to uphold this provision.

While additional technical amendments and clarifications may be necessary, these core changes represent essential steps toward equity, consumer protection, and market stabilization.

Mendocino County is committed to working collaboratively with your office and stakeholders to advance a regulatory approach that safeguards public health without sacrificing the livelihoods of California's licensed cannabis farmers. We appreciate your leadership on this complex issue and welcome further dialogue on the path forward.

Sincerely,



John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the California State Senate
The Honorable Chris Rogers, Member of the California State Assembly