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Cannabis Cultivation to be Recognized, Measured, and Valued Like All Other Agricultural Crops in California

Signing of SB 657 and SB 527 ensures cannabis farming to be included in annual county agricultural reports and determined as an agricultural commodity

Buellton, CA – Good Farmers Great Neighbors, a coalition of legal cannabis farmers in North County, commended Governor Newsom for signing SB 657 and SB 527.

John De Friel, a founding member of the Good Farmers Great Neighbors, stated that “California Cannabis farmers, especially many [of us] who have transitioned from traditional crop farming and are moving toward a more diverse cultivation model that is more sustainable are very pleased, and applaud the Governor for signing SB 657 and SB 527.”

These pieces of legislation will reinforce the legitimacy of the hardworking, dedicated agricultural cannabis farmers, who are often harmed by outdated misconceptions about their cultivation practices. SB 657 (Monning) authorizes county agricultural commissions to report to the CDFA about the condition, production levels, and value of cannabis, in the same way this information is reported about all other agricultural products in the state.

SB 527 (Caballero) amends existing law to include cannabis and hemp cultivation under the agricultural commodity classification, which makes cultivation compatible with agricultural land use conservation contracts under the Williamson Act. This classification gives much-needed government recognition to cannabis and hemp as safely regulated agricultural products.

De Friel continued, “Taken together, these new state laws will allow cannabis and hemp farming to be more aligned with the recently passed Federal Farm Act of 2018 and other local and state measures that help provide economic stability in cannabis cultivation.”

Since its legalization in 2016, lawful cannabis production has suffered from an antiquated, negative stigma, which only serves to encourage illicit and unsafe cannabis operations throughout the state. This new legislation gives the deserved legitimacy to legal cannabis and hemp as agricultural products, and paves the way toward a bright economic future that allows the North County farmers to give back to their community.

Good Farmers Great Neighbors is a collective of Santa Barbara County cannabis industry leaders who believe that cannabis farming is good for County jobs and our local economy. We promote best practices for sustainable growing, a healthy community and environment, and advocate for good neighbor community engagement to dispel the myths surrounding cannabis and cannabis production to help the industry thrive.

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