

Honorable Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:

As small business owners in Point Arena and Gualala we are very disturbed to hear that you are considering withholding funding for the local nonprofit, EDFC, who is the primary alternative lender in our county.

We recently received EDFC's assistance in the form of a much needed loan and financial counseling. Their staff is so professional and helpful. When our local credit union, Redwood Credit Union, turned down our application for a loan to renovate our building at Arena Cove EDFC helped us secure a loan and move forward. This loan not only helped our business, The Pier Chowder House & Tap Room, be able to keep our doors open it also helped our tenants businesses. The bigger picture is that it also helped the City of Point Arena in the much needed generation of tax dollars generated by the businesses at Arena Cove. And the County of Mendocino in the property tax values generated by the value of our property.

It is unthinkable to us that in these very difficult financial times for small businesses that you would consider not funding EDFC. Now more than ever small businesses will need access to alternative funding. Banks are even more reluctant to fund and there will be even more predatory lenders preying on small businesses in the wake of the pandemic.

As small business owners in your county we urge you to fully fund EDFC to ensure their financial stability and support our much needed primary alternative lender in our county.

John and Tracy Du Pont  
Arena Cove Property  
The Pier Chowder House & Tao Room  
Gualala Chevron  
Point Arena Gas

Sent from my iPhone