



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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CLERK OF THE BOARD

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March 18, 2026

Senator Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for ACR 97 (Rogers) – Charlie Barra Memorial Bridge

Dear Chair Cortese,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our strong support for Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 97, introduced by Assemblymember Rogers. This resolution proposes to designate the Russian River Bridge and Overhead on State Route 20 in Mendocino County as the Charlie Barra Memorial Bridge. The County passed Resolution 24-094 on June 25, 2024, supporting the renaming of the Russian River Bridge to honor Charlie Barra.

Charlie Barra was a pillar of Mendocino County—deeply rooted in the community as a lifelong resident, veteran, farmer, public servant, and industry pioneer. Born in Calpella in 1926 to Italian immigrant parents, Mr. Barra's legacy is indelibly marked by his contributions to local agriculture, government, and civic life. He cultivated over 500 acres of vineyards, helped establish the Redwood Valley County Water District, and was twice appointed to the Mendocino County Planning Commission. In 1968, then-Governor Ronald Reagan appointed him to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Barra's leadership in the wine industry was equally notable. He was an early innovator in vineyard management, a founding member and past president of the North Coast Grape Growers Association, and a vocal advocate for organic farming and appellation standards that helped shape California's wine reputation globally. His commitment to the community extended to education and philanthropy, as he founded and led the St. Mary's School Foundation of Ukiah for over two decades.

Designating the bridge at post mile 33.6 on State Route 20 in his honor is a fitting tribute to a man whose influence touched every corner of Mendocino County—from agriculture to public service to education.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to adopt ACR 97 and honor the extraordinary life and contributions of Charlie Barra by naming this bridge in his memory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernie Norvell".

Bernie Norvell, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Chris Rogers, California State Assembly, 2nd District
The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2nd District

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