

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

It has come to our attention as local business owners that a local non-profit organization's funding from Mendocino County is under consideration for defunding.

As a business that has directly benefited from the Economic Development & Financing Corporation, our business has received critical financial assistance in the form of a loan, as well as, financial counseling. That funding and assistance has given our business the opportunity to continue to grow, to survive disaster, and to give back to our local community by our services offered and tax dollars earned.

It is our strong opinion that any interruption in funding to EDFC would place in jeopardy a critical need for businesses in our rural community to access alternative financing which would leave these businesses in the hands of predatory lenders.

We would like to take this opportunity to support EDFC, as they have supported our business and urge the County Supervisors to make the decision to fully fund EDFC to ensure their financial stability and support the primary alternative lender in the County to continue investing in the development and future of our business community.

Our company's loan from EDFC is allowing us to be considered for serious investment within our industry. We will bring in more than \$17 million in new capital from outside Mendocino County over the next 3 years. We will create up to 8 new full time jobs, and another 5 part time jobs.

The loan from EDFC has made a tremendous impact for our company, we have purchased the means of production, which we were previously leasing. We have established exclusive ownership of certain trademarks which we previous co-owned or did not own at all. We have established an entirely new brand "Mendocino Spirits" which is making it's way into the market. The efforts and services EDFC offers are vital to our County's economic future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Crispin Ian Cain
President
Senior Distiller
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Mendocino Spirits
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Makers of Low Gap Whiskey
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Russell Henry Gin
DSP-CA-162 Vodkas