



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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July 31, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 620 (McGuire) Low-impact camping areas – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

I am writing on behalf of the Mendocino Board of Supervisors to express our support for SB 620. This bill defines and establishes "low-impact camping areas" standards to increase affordable outdoor access and create economic opportunities for rural communities, particularly those on the North Coast.

SB 620 aims to create additional camping opportunities on rural, private property across the state by eliminating prohibitively costly and time-intensive state permits unsuitable for small-scale camping areas. This change would enable Californians to engage in and benefit from our state's thriving outdoor recreation industry and create opportunities for rural economic development in communities like Mendocino County.

In Mendocino County, campsites on rural and agricultural lands are already a crucial source of income, given the increased demand for outdoor recreation in recent years. The County recognizes the critical role of tourism, including rural recreation, in our local economy. Therefore, the Mendocino Board of Supervisors is currently working on permitting and additional support for small-scale, low-impact camping areas. SB 620 provides a foundation that Mendocino County – and other rural communities – can build upon.

Moreover, investments in small-scale, low-impact camping areas and resources are vital to the success of ambitious outdoor recreation projects like the Great Redwood Trail (GRT). The GRT aims to increase recreational access to remote areas in Northern California and create economic opportunities for the individual landowners and rural communities surrounding it. Since over 80% of land adjacent to the GRT is privately owned, SB 620 could be crucial in establishing sufficient camping areas to support recreation along the trail. Enabling local landowners to host campers could ensure that residents benefit from the economic impact of the GRT. In summary, SB 620 has the potential to significantly boost rural economic development, support California landowners, and improve outdoor access.

The Board of Supervisors of Mendocino County supports SB 620 for these reasons.

Sincerely,

Maureen Mulheren, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly, 2nd District
The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2nd District

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