



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

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Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

RE: 5h) Discussion and Possible Adoption of Ordinance Repealing Mendocino County Code Section 2.16.041, Adding Section 2.16.070 and Amending Chapter 2.36 for the Purpose of Consolidating the Offices of the Auditor-Controller and the Treasurer-Tax Collector

Dear Chair Gjerde and Board Members.

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB would like to submit comment for agenda item 5H.

Following the action by the Board on November 15th in relation to the consolidation of the Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector positions, MCFB received inquiries from several members regarding the proposed ordinance. For this reason, MCFB outreached to County Counsel Curtis to clarify the intent of the ordinance and our Political Action and Education Committee also met with Treasurer-Tax Collector Schapmire and acting Auditor-Controller Cubbison.

From these additional efforts to become more informed of the Board's action, MCFB concluded that the proposal to consolidate the offices of Treasurer-Tax Collector and the Auditor-Controller has been rushed (assumably based on lack of incumbents and upcoming election deadlines in 2022) without substantial review of the potential ramifications or benefits from consolidation. It was also disheartening to see that the Board was moving forward with this action without an extensive conversation with the two department heads to provide an analysis of what a consolidated financial office would look like. In addition, our membership expressed concern that combining two elected offices to one would not only reduce public input but would also seemingly reduce fiduciary checks and balances for the county.

For these reasons, MCFB requests that the Board **not** adopt the second reading of the ordinance. MCFB feels that there has been insufficient review of the proposed action and therefore we do not support the consolidation of the offices of the Treasurer-Tax Collector and Auditor-Controller. The Board should take the time to fully analyze a consolidation action and not rush a decision that could have impacts on both the county and its constituents.

Sincerely,

George Hollister
President