



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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April 22, 2025

The Honorable Dawn Addis
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Avelino Valencia
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5510
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT – AB 1288 (Addis): Registered Environmental Health Specialists
As Introduced February 21, 2025

Dear Assemblymember Addis and Assemblymember Valencia:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing to support Assembly Bill 1288. It has become increasingly difficult to recruit and retain Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS). This creates a critical problem at the local level because Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) play a vital role in safeguarding our community.

Currently, certification for local REHS is administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The CDPH program ensures that a certified REHS has met adequate science education, training, and experience requirements and has passed a comprehensive state examination. Limited examination offerings and strict time limitations governing how often a trainee may take the exam have resulted in trainees being reassigned or released – even if they have excellent job performance and wish to continue to pursue a career as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS). The current state exam passage rate averages around 60 percent.

Changes proposed in AB 1288 will allow the expansion of the REHS trainee pool and enhance and lengthen the training period used to prepare trainees to pass the state exam. These changes are critical to maintaining high-quality, community-responsive environmental public health programs in our community.

For these reasons, the County of Mendocino supports AB 1288 and urges its passage.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2nd District
The Honorable Chris Rogers, California State Assembly, 2nd District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

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