



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## Board of Supervisors

**DARCIE ANTLE**  
**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

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April 4, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
Senator, District 38  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 561 (Blakespear) – Emergency Distress Flare Safe Disposal Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Blakespear:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing to support Senate Bill 561, the Emergency Distress Flare Safe Disposal Act. This legislation addresses the environmental and safety hazards of improperly disposing of expired marine flares by establishing a statewide collection and disposal program.

As a coastal county with a maritime community, Mendocino understands the difficulties in disposing of expired flares, which contain hazardous chemicals that can contaminate water and harm public health. Without a designated program, many flares are disposed of incorrectly or stored unsafely, heightening the risk of pollution and accidents.

SB 561 mandates manufacturers to create a plan to safely dispose of expired flares, providing convenient and environmentally responsible options for boaters and communities.

Mendocino County is dedicated to protecting our natural resources and the safety of our residents. We urge the passage of SB 561 to enhance environmental stewardship and safeguard our coastal waters.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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

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