

CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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February 25, 2020

Michael Rios  
Vice Provost - Public Scholarship and Engagement  
Fifth Floor, Mrak Hall  
University of California, Davis  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Mr. Rios:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors strongly supports Dr. Keith Taylor's application for a Public Impact Research Initiative (PIRI) grant.

Mendocino County is economically depressed according to a variety of data. We are a rural county along the Northern California coast. We have many fine organic family farms in our region. Fruits and vegetables are produced in abundance with regenerative, organic farming techniques up and down the coastal valleys and hillsides. Mendocino and the surrounding counties have rich agricultural products that are in demand, but lacking market access. Such agricultural products involve cannabis, hemp, livestock, fiber, produce, and value-added creations. We believe that a cooperative model that Dr. Keith Taylor has the expertise to help us envision is a way forward for the myriad agri-food producers along the North Coast.

Our Board has determined that creating a cooperative model for agri-foods and the fledgling cannabis industry has the potential to greatly enhance our communities and economy. The educational forums on community wealth building, the Strategic Doing sessions, and the collaborative process that Dr. Taylor has proposed would be transformative in our communities.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically supports Dr. Keith Taylor's application. Please give it your utmost consideration as we consider it a way forward to greater economic security, increasing food security, and promoting environmentally sound practices.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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