

# Ted & Carole Hester

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

The just-published draft County of Mendocino budget for the upcoming fiscal year proposes to reduce the County's support for Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) from the current \$100,000 to \$25,000/year. As you know, wildfires and the need to prepare for them are not going away. Fire season is already upon us, and there is much work to do.

The work of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council has been significant: A number of vital fuels-reduction (such as major road clearing work in Ukiah and Brooktrails) and educational programs.

The MCFSC hopes to continue substantially increasing their affiliated network of Neighborhood Fire Safe Councils so that they can leverage the work needed to address the mission to help all residents of Mendocino County to survive and thrive in a wildfire-prone environment.

Please increase the MCFSC's funding to at least \$50,000, which would allow them to operate at a baseline level and effectively bring in other grant funding to support more fire-safety work in our community. Of the many important budget requests/needs, fire safety is at the top for many residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

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