

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I understand that the proposed county budget reduces funding for the FIRE SAFE COUNCILS to \$25,000. Understanding that these are challenging times for our County budget, I hope that you will try to fund this important program to at least a \$50,000 level so that it can continue to function. As you know, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council *administers neighborhood and area fire safety funds and grants. It also supports and helps organize community fire safety activities and provide fire safety education and training. We are encouraged by the recent vegetation clearance along Redemeyer Rd, including the areas from Rogina Heights all the way to Lake Mendocino. The MCFSC helped obtain the grant money and administered this project. Last years budget line item for the Council was \$100K. With that the fire council was was able to obtain over \$400K in grants and was employed in the administration of \$1.5 million in projects.*

My husband and I lost our home in the catastrophic 2017 Redwood Valley fire. Planning and preparing for wildfires in a changing climate is extremely important and certainly a function of our local government. This seems like a small investment for a big gain in preparedness.

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