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Boonville, Mendocino County, CA

January 23, 2021

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: 6A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Composition of the Mendocino County Planning Commission

Dear Chair Gjerde,

The recommended action / motion, as stated for this item, is to direct County Counsel to prepare an amendment reducing the Mendocino County Planning Commission to one seat per Supervisorial District.

I ask the Supervisors to strongly oppose this recommendation. Supervisors Williams and Haschak in their summary State that:

"The Planning Commission would benefit from a more streamlined Commission and a more workable quorum. To align our Planning Commission with other counties and give fair representation to all, the recommendation is to eliminate the two additional seats on the Planning Commission. With five seats on the Planning Commission, a quorum of 3 would be sufficient and a majority of two could move decisions."

How would eliminating the two seats representing, Agriculture and Forestry, give the Commission a more workable quorum? I would argue that taking that base of knowledge away from a Commission that rules on land use policies or specific projects county wide will not only make it harder for the Commission to reach a decision, because of the knowledge those two seats bring to the table, but there is more of a likelihood that the decisions made without that knowledge present will be appealed. How in anyone's imagination can that be considered streamlining? Do you really believe that a quorum of

three is sufficient and that a majority of two could make decisions that will not be appealed? If that is what you believe then be prepared for much longer board meetings because there will be a dramatic increase in appeals on decisions made by the Planning Commission.

The recommendation also states that by reducing the two seats it will align our Planning Commission so it will be more like other counties. It is incredible that this statement came from two sitting Supervisors of Mendocino County. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, to my knowledge, has long prided itself on standing on its own and not following other counties practices just to stay in step with them. Our county is unique, and the leadership of our county should acknowledge and support that fact.

Lastly, I want to point out that the two individuals that occupy the seats designated to represent forestry and agriculture bring a wealth of knowledge to the Commission. Knowledge that in many cases helps the Commission reach a decision as to the optimum way to help the resident seeking the permit and the county in protecting valuable resources. If it is in the best interests of the Board of Supervisors to protect the resources of forestry and agriculture in Mendocino County, then you need to oppose the recommendation.

Sincerely,

Peter Bradford