HOUSING ACTION TEAM - INLAND MENDOCINO COUNTY PO Box 997, Ukiah, CA 95482-0997

May 24, 2021

Honorable Mendocino County Supervisors,

Today you are looking at a unique opportunity to improve the critical housing shortage in the county. With some of the remaining funds from both the \$20M Pacific Gas and Electric Settlement Fund and the \$16M American Recovery Fund, you could create a Housing Trust Fund, similar to the one in Ukiah. This would improve our housing stock by providing a ready source of seed money to facilitate construction here.

As the inland Housing Action Team, we work to promote housing for everyone in Mendocino County, and more particularly the inland areas. During the tragic fires of 2017 and 2018, more than 400 homes were lost in Redwood Valley and Potter Valley. Some have since been rebuilt, but about one-third of the residents were forced to move elsewhere, often outside the county. Currently the housing situation is such that many local people cannot find appropriate, affordable housing in our communities. This concerns all of our population from the homeless to the working professionals, from students to retirees. A local example, the City of Ukiah Housing Trust Fund would serve as a model. <u>http://www.cityofukiah.com/NewWeb/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/FINAL-UHTF-Guidelines-approved-10-18-17.pdf</u> The funds may be used for different stages of the development of additional housing units, for both non-profit and for-profit developers, both corporations and individuals. From land purchase and predevelopment assistance to new construction, preservation, or rehabilitation. The Fund is an invaluable tool for the community.

So again we ask that you, Supervisors of our County, please allocate \$4M from the Pacific Gas and Electric Settlement Fund and the American Recovery Fund to the creation of the Mendocino County Housing Trust Fund to ease the housing shortage and assist in the housing of the survivors of the fires.

We appreciate your consideration of this request on behalf of our neighbors who are searching for a home.

Sincerely,

Katie Gibbs, Coordinator for the Housing Action Team —Inland Mendocino County katieg@pacific.net, 707 228-6143