

To the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my concern over a specific point in the new draft budget: the reduction of funding for the Mendocino Fire Safe Council (MCFSC). If anything, I believe that MCFSC should be allocated more funding this year. Reducing their base funding from \$100,000 to \$25,000 is not a wise plan for the safety of our county.

During the spring, my neighborhood was fortunate to participate in the “Chipper Days” program organized by MCFSC. That program enabled me to complete fire safety clearing projects that I could not have afforded otherwise. The existence of the program motivates people to be proactive in protecting their homes and thereby reducing the fire risk for the county as a whole.

MCFSC supports smaller Fire Safe Councils in the county, including the Sherwood Firewise Committee. When the Oak Fire erupted last summer, the hard work of Sherwood Firewise is the main reason that there was a smooth evacuation of residents. Our county should support local FSCs in every way possible.

I urge the Board to reconsider their budget allocation for MCFSC and continue to provide them with \$100,000, or increase the amount of money that they receive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Petru

Willits, CA