

Board of Supervisors,

I am a relatively recent constituent and climate refugee. We are blessed to make our final home in Mendocino after our home of 25 years burned to the ground in the CZU Lightning Complex fire on August 20, 2020. We are acutely aware of the Climate Crisis and its effects. My wife is a Mendocino High School Graduate and now carrying on the 60 year family tradition as an artist in Mendocino. Her parents were founding members of the Mendocino Art Center, so our connection with the community extends beyond the recent move to the family home.

On May 10th, members of the Grassroots Institute in Mendocino County sent an Open Letter to the Board requesting \$2 million be allocated for climate action programs out of the estimated \$16.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds the county is receiving. I'm writing today to urge your support for the Grassroots Institute's appeal (see attached). We are in a declared emergency situation due to drought and fire danger, both the results of the Climate Crisis which you have the power to address.

You have the opportunity to commit these one time funds toward continued savings in utility costs through installing photovoltaics on County buildings and increasing resilience through adding storage capacity for the inevitable PG&E power failures and Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

The County could also provide an alternative to our significant vehicular greenhouse gas generation through addressing the need for electric vehicle rapid charge capacity (especially for non-Tesla vehicles) and supporting electrification of the MTA fleet. This has the added economic advantage of increasing tourist income from electric vehicle owners and reducing human health costs from diesel and gasoline exhaust.

By creating a budgetary line item that addresses Climate Crisis issues, there will be a means to channel further funding from grants and designated State and Federal funds, supplementing income to the area while making a positive statement as a community and becoming a functional part of the solution to the greatest challenge of our time.

Please make the wise decision and do the right thing for our community, your legacy, and your grandchildren who may one day ask if you did anything to address this issue.

In Gratitude and with Respect,

James Schoonover