



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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April 27, 2021

Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express Humboldt County's support for increased funding for the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR). The Division provides local programming through UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), where advisors and staff are embedded in county government and connect the talents of the University to local communities. This partnership between the University and the County provides vital programs that serve both urban and rural communities throughout the State. Cooperative Extension staff are our local experts who are making a difference in local economic development, business resiliency, agriculture and natural resources sustainability, and healthy families and communities.

Unfortunately, the continuance of multi-year flat budgets and budget cuts for UC ANR has directly impacted the programming and technical expertise available to Humboldt County. We are aware that we are not alone in feeling these impacts and request a permanent augmentation to the UC ANR's budget to bring their budgetary line item up to rebuild the Cooperative Extension footprint and permanently bolster our and other communities throughout the State.

We recognize that our partnership with UN ANR is critical to building a stronger and more resilient Humboldt through UC's leadership and technical skills in natural resources, agriculture, and community health. As trusted long-term partners, we have observed their work to empower landowners, residents, and organizations at every level. We have specifically benefited from their technical and policy expertise in fire, dairy science, fisheries, manure management, water quality, agriculture, and forestry pest and disease research and management, along with gold star nutrition and 4-H programs. And while we could use the term "their" programs, these are really our programs because the partnership with the County of Humboldt and other counties throughout California sustains and fosters the Cooperative Extension system and helps us achieve our local community goals.

Humboldt County is one of California's most rural communities, and it is essential to our future that we have the technical and organizational support of UC ANR to deliver a better tomorrow for our citizens now and into the future.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to your support of this valuable service to rural communities.

Sincerely,



Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh

cc Mike McGuire, State Senator

Jim Woods, State Assemblymember

Nancy Skinner, Chair, State Senate Budget Committee

Phil Ting, Chair, State Assembly Budget Committee

Graham Knaus, Executive Director, President, California State Association of Counties

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, Rural County Representative of California

Glenda Humiston, Vice President, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

Michael Drake, President, University of California

John A. Pérez, Chairman, UC Board of Regents

Chris Howard, Chair, Del Norte Board of Supervisors

Yana Valachovic, County Director, UCCE Humboldt and Humboldt