

**Sample August Letter of Support to Our County Board of Supervisors
for Our Community Designed Amnesty Program - Key Points**
Personalize to be effective, but please keep the first two paragraph points intact*

[Optional but helpful: Letterhead of Employer, Nonprofit or Personal]

Date: **[keep to one page if possible, or add more as an attachment]** To

Honorable Board of Supervisors: [*can add most effective options, see below]

I am writing to support our proposed Community Designed Amnesty Program for Mendocino County, aligning our County with all the key provisions of State Amnesty Law AB2533, to protect our existing housing, even if unpermitted. This is common sense in our housing-economic crisis, with the coming major federal budget cuts.

I am respectfully asking the Board to support this amnesty program, and place it on the September 15 agenda for Board approval. It has strong community support:

The unintended consequences of the Board's mandate of full code compliance and enforcement on unpermitted buildings – reinstating full fines, penalties, liens and increased tax assessments – has been widespread financial harm to our community, along with documented loss of safe housing and unnecessary homelessness.

We must stop causing unnecessary bankruptcy to our elders at the end of their lives, and harming other financially vulnerable community members. Most live on \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year without benefits, disabled even less. Please protect our community.

The biggest unnecessary loss is our irreplaceable housing, when there are no real safety, health or environmental hazards, or harm to neighbors. Half our county is estimated to live in unpermitted buildings. We cannot lose these.

Among the pro-amnesty signatures gathered so far, including employers, current County policy is seen as a war on our housing AND on our community.”

The most damaging County policy is using a complaint to initiate full code compliance-enforcement – used by our most malicious community members to cause severe harm. The real liability is the severe wrongful harm and loss of housing based on the documented cases being gathered across our county.

Please support and approve our Amnesty program to align our County with AB2533: Help our County Planning-Building Department staff focus on genuine health and safety concerns, and meet the urgent needs of our community.

Respectfully submitted, [your name and any identifier]

IF you have time to add urgent help to influence Board of Supervisor members

1. Send letter asking support to the BOS who heads your district,
2. If you know a BOS member as a friend or associate, please write a more personal note, as these are the most effective of all.
3. If you are an employer or nonprofit, gather your team to sit together and get as many individual letters off as possible.
4. Gather a fun letter writing group of friends around your kitchen table.

PLEASE NOTE: While we need to gain the support of one or more BOS members by the end of August, to have them put our amnesty proposal on the September 15 Agenda for approval – we will continue to need letters asking BOS members for support – flowing to them continually the first two weeks of September – so they know there is STRONG ONGOING community support wanting them to approve our amnesty proposal on September 15.

Again, we need positive and respectful outreach to our hard working BOS members struggling with major budget shortfalls and multiple Countywide concerns. Adding that we as a community will help seek alternative revenue streams will be helpful as well.