

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
Senate President Pro Tem  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Assembly Speaker  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Mark Leno  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
State Capitol, Room 2179  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Richard Lara  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Shirley N. Weber  
State Capitol, Room 3126  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Jim Nielsen  
State Capitol, Room 4062  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jeff Gorrell  
State Capitol, Room 6031  
Sacramento, CA 94249

June 5, 2014

**Re: Support for cap-and-trade funding for sustainable agriculture and farmland conservation**

Dear Pro Tem Steinberg, Speaker Atkins, Senators Leno, Hancock, Lara and Nielsen and Assemblymembers Skinner, Bloom, Weber and Gorrell,

As agricultural leaders in our communities, we write to urge your support for investing a portion of the cap-and-trade auction proceeds in agricultural activities that reduce greenhouse emissions, sequester carbon in soils and woody biomass and produce on-farm renewable energy.

Such investments in our communities can create jobs, spur innovation and improve our environment. The Governor's cap-and-trade budget proposal represents an important initial investment in farmland conservation and agricultural management strategies that will support farmers and ranchers in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainable and organic agriculture can provide unique climate solutions. For example, improving water and energy use efficiency will not only lower greenhouse gas emissions but can also lower costs for growers. Our farms and ranches can be net-energy producers, producing on-farm renewable energy from bioenergy, solar and wind power. Soil management strategies like cover cropping, compost application and reduced tillage can increase the organic content of soils, improve soil water holding capacity and in turn remove carbon from the atmosphere and slow climate change—a unique property of natural and working lands.

We support expanding the eligible projects in the Governor's proposal to allow for funding of on-farm research and demonstration projects that provide on-the-ground support and data-driven research that supports reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration in agriculture.

We support the inclusion of farmland conservation as part of the Sustainable Communities Strategy funding lead by the Strategic Growth Council. Farmland conservation provides the triple bottom line of reduced vehicle miles traveled, increased carbon sequestration and avoided emissions associated with land conversion and urban development.

Many of California's rural communities struggle with high unemployment. Cap-and-trade investments will protect and create jobs, support our agricultural economy and invest in disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

Cathy Calfo, Executive Director  
CCOF

Dave Henson, Executive Director  
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

Dave Runsten, Policy Director  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Geoffrey Davies PhD and Elham A. Ghabbour PhD, Directors  
National Soil Project

Jo Ann Baumgartner, Director  
Wild Farm Alliance

John Vawter and Riley Davenport, Publishers  
Edible San Diego

Ken Dickerson, Executive Director  
Ecological Farming Association

Kris Beal, Executive Director  
Vineyard Team

Kris Jensen, Executive Director  
Collective Roots

Lynne McBride, Executive Director  
California Farmers Union

Mary Kimball, Executive Director  
Center for Land-Based Learning

Matthew Marsom, Vice President for Public Policy & Programs  
Public Health Institute

Nancy Casady, General Manager  
Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market

Rebecca Spector, West Coast Director  
The Center for Food Safety

Reggie Knox, Executive Director  
California FarmLink

Rex Dufour, California Office Manager  
National Center for Appropriate Technology

Rich Rominger  
Farmer; Secretary California Department of Food and Agriculture 1977-1982; Deputy Secretary U. S.  
Department of Agriculture 1993-2001

Sibella Kraus, Executive Director  
SAGE

**Farmers & Ranchers**

*Butte County:*

Cynthia A. Daley, Sweet Grass Organics, Inc.  
Mel and Mary Thompson, Sierra Farms Lamb

*Contra Costa County:*

Kristie and Rick Knoll, Knoll Farms

*Fresno County:*

Brad Bryce, Bar 2B Ranch  
John M. Teixeira, Lone Willow Ranch

*Marin County:*

Albert Straus, Straus Family Creamery  
Ione Conlan, Conlan Ranches

*Merced County:*

Jean Okuye, Okuye Farms

*Nevada County:*

Amigo Bob Cantisano, Heaven and Earth Farm

*Placer County:*

Tammi Riedl, Lincoln Hills Farm

*Sacramento County:*

Shawn Harrison, Soil Born Farms

*San Benito County:*

Joe and Julie Morris, Morris Grassfed

*San Francisco County:*

Robert MacKimmie, City Bees

*San Mateo County:*

Biraj Palmer, Ananda Valley Farm  
Erin Tormey, Irish Ridge Ranch  
Jered Lawson and Nancy Vail, Pie Ranch

*San Diego County:*

Cathryn Henning and Mel Lions, Wild Willow Farm and Education Center

*Santa Cruz County:*

David Gates, Jr., Ridge Vineyards  
Jim Cochran, Swanton Berry Farm  
Ken Kimes, New Natives Farm  
Stephen Pedersen and Jeanne Byrne, High Ground Organics  
Thomas Broz, Live Earth Farm

*Solano County:*

Craig McNamara, Sierra Orchards  
Jenny Lester Moffitt, Dixon Ridge Farms  
Moira Burke, Agricola: flora et fauna

*Sonoma County:*

Keith Abeles, Quetzal Farm  
Terry Harrison, Foxwhelp Farm

*San Luis Obispo County:*

Ryan Rich  
Four Elements Organics

*Tehama County:*

Bill Burrows, Burrows Ranch Inc.  
Frank and Vicky Dawley, Big Bluff Ranch

*Yolo County:*

James Durst, Durst Organic Growers Inc.  
John Anderson, Hedgerow Farms  
Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm  
Paul Underhill, Terra Firma Farm