



The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
 Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
 1020 N Street, Room 164
 Sacramento, CA 95814

January 6, 2020

Re: AB 1071 (Limón) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Friedman,

We write in support of AB 1071 (Limón), a bill to develop climate adaptation planning and decision-support tools for farmers and ranchers. AB 1071 will soon be amended to build on AB 409 from earlier this year, which **received all unanimous votes in the Assembly** (76-0 on the floor, 18-0 in appropriations, and 11-0 in natural resources) **and Senate policy committees** (9-0 in natural resources and water and 5-0 in agriculture), before being held in Senate Appropriations at the request of the Governor’s office. We are reaching out to the Governor’s office to discuss AB 1071 as part of the state’s larger effort on climate change adaptation and resilience.

Farmers in our state are on the frontlines of unprecedented weather extremes and need resources to help them adapt to the reality of a changing climate. California farmers and ranchers are critical to our state’s economy, food security, and environment, producing nearly \$60 billion worth of crops, supporting 2.5 million jobs, and stewarding 25 million acres of land.

They consistently provide these services to our state despite the inherent risks in the agricultural business. Every season, farmers have to manage the dynamic interactions between weather, soils, crops, livestock, markets, and regulations. But as a recent scientific review paper on climate change trends in California agriculture wrote: “While California farmers and ranchers have

always been affected by the natural variability of weather from year to year, the increased rate and scale of climate change is beyond the realm of experience for the agricultural community.”¹

Farmers and ranchers are hard-working, independent, and practical problem-solvers. With the tools and trainings proposed in this bill, they can remain competitive and resilient through adaptive, climate-smart agricultural management practices and business planning.

The state and its world-class agricultural schools have made significant investments in research to better understand specific crops’ and regions’ unique climate risks and to develop better agricultural risk management practices. But not enough has been done to translate those studies, models, and strategies into tools and trainings to educate producers and help them make more strategic management decisions and long-term investments.

For these reasons, we support AB 1071’s effort to bring together the state’s leading agricultural and climate researchers with farmers, ranchers, technical assistance providers and the agricultural industry to develop farmer-centered tools and trainings on climate risk management and adaptation. We urge your support for AB 1071.

Sincerely,



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Associate Policy Director
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¹Pathak, T., et al. 2018. Climate Change Trends and Impacts on California Agriculture: A Detailed Review. *Agronomy*, 8(3): 25.



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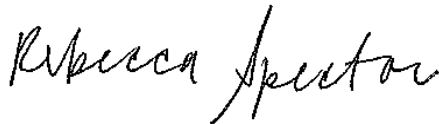
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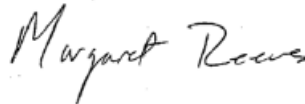
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