



December 15, 2020

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
 California State Assembly  
 State Capitol, Room 4140  
 Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 93 (Garcia) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Garcia,

We write to your AB 93, which expresses the intent of the Legislature to prioritize workers in the food supply industry, including field workers, for rapid testing and vaccination programs in response to COVID-19.

Our organizations are encouraged to hear California will be receiving a significant number of doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the coming months. Your bill ensures California’s essential workforce is protected from COVID-19 as soon as possible.

As an essential workforce, those in the agricultural industry never stopped working during the pandemic. These individuals continued to harvest, pack, and process food so grocery store shelves remained stocked, and will continue to do so even as portions of the state remain in varying levels of closure.

Our organizations worked closely with Governor Newsom’s Administration to procure adequate PPE, COVID-19 testing, and housing for the field worker community, yet found it difficult to secure these essential services for this essential workforce considering the competing interest for these limited resources. With COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations on the rise, it is imperative we protect those that continue to serve the population of the state and nation by ensuring they are some of the first in line for the vaccine.

In addition to your legislation, we support additional education on the importance of the vaccine, social distancing, and other precautions against COVID-19 for the field worker community as well as implementation of measures to protect their individual privacy. It's important for individuals to have a clear understanding of the vaccine and risks of COVID-19 and have the security of knowing their personal and health information will be protected and they will not be exposed to unnecessary scrutiny.

Sincerely,



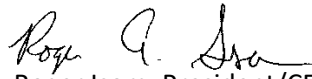
Emily Rooney, President  
Agricultural Council of California



Casey Creamer, President  
California Citrus Mutual



Elaine Trevino, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Almond Alliance of California



Roger Isom, President/CEO  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
Western Agricultural Processors Association



Richard Matoian, President  
American Pistachio Growers



Jim Houston, Administrator  
California Farm Bureau Federation



Debra Murdock, Executive Director  
Association of California Egg Farmers  
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association



Ian LeMay, President  
California Fresh Fruit Association



Jane Townsend  
Executive Director, California Agricultural Irrigation Association  
Executive Director, California Alfalfa and Forage Association  
Executive Officer, California Bean Shippers Association



Chris Zanobini, Chief Executive Officer  
California Grain and Feed Association



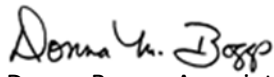
Ken Dyer, President  
California Pork Producers Association



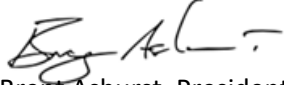
Ruthann Anderson, President/CEO  
California Association of Pest Control Advisers



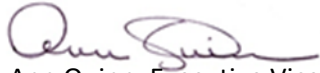
Timothy A. Johnson, President/CEO  
California Rice Commission



Donna Boggs, Associate Director  
California Seed Association



Brent Ashurst, President  
California State Beekeepers Association



Ann Quinn, Executive Vice President  
California State Floral Association  
California Warehouse Association



Rick Tomlinson, President  
California Strawberry Commission



Michelle M. Connelly, Executive Director & CEO  
California Walnut Commission



Bill Schiek, Executive Director  
Dairy Institute of California



Pete Downs, President  
Family Winemakers of California



Christopher Valadez, President  
Grower-Shipper Association of Central  
California



Kirti Mutatkar, President/CEO  
United Ag



Matthew Allen, Vice President, State  
Government Affairs  
Western Growers Association

Cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California  
The Honorable Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Department of Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture