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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Western Growers Opposes Proposition 206

IRVINE, Calif. (October 4, 2016) – The Western Growers Board of Directors has unanimously voted to oppose Proposition 206, the minimum wage and paid time off initiative on the 2016 Arizona ballot.

Tom Nassif, President and CEO of Western Growers, issued the following statement: **“Proposition 206 will hurt Arizona’s farmers and the rural economies dependent on these family businesses. Labor is the single largest line item in a farmer’s budget; simple economics dictates that increasing such costs by nearly 50 percent will cause people to lose their jobs. The truth is, many family farmers, still recovering from the recession, will not be able to absorb the added financial and regulatory burdens of Proposition 206 and will be forced to eliminate countless jobs they currently provide to farmworkers. Furthermore, the cost of living disparity between rural and urban Arizona makes a one-size-fits-all minimum wage law fundamentally unfair to farming businesses in rural communities.”**

About Western Growers:

Founded in 1926, [Western Growers](#) represents local and regional family farmers growing fresh produce in Arizona, California and Colorado. Our members and their workers provide more than half the nation’s fresh fruits, vegetables and tree nuts, including half of America’s fresh organic produce. For generations we have provided variety and healthy choices to consumers. Connect with and learn more about Western Growers on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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