

Resolution Concerning 2007 Farm Bill

Whereas, California produces over 350 different crops and continues to be the number one agriculture state in the nation generating 32 billion dollars in farm gate revenue annually, and

Whereas, California agriculture is the number one agricultural export state, and

Whereas, California's climate, soils, and infrastructure allow it to produce many specialty and traditional crops demonstrated to contribute to the health and nutrition of consumers and

Whereas, the diversity and productivity of California's strong and stable agricultural production system is critical to addressing national priorities of reducing dependence on fossil fuels, improving nutrition, ensuring national food security and supporting rural development, and

Whereas, USDA programs have often lacked the appropriate structure to recognize both the unique diversity of the crops grown in California and the variation in the size of California farms and ranches which resulted failure to address fully the needs of our diversified agriculture systems, and

Whereas, California continues to lead the nation in the development of agricultural practices that are environmentally and economically sustainable, and

Whereas, California agriculture must compete in a global market with higher costs for labor, land and regulatory compliance, and

Whereas, the diverse needs of California agriculture must be clearly articulated in the development of the 2007 Farm Bill, therefore

Be it Resolved by the California State Board of Food and Agriculture that the California Department of Food and Agriculture assist the California Congressional Delegation in conducting a series of workshops that include appropriate agency representation and those who have a stake in California agriculture to gather input on priority needs to be addressed by the 2007 Farm Bill;

Be it further resolved that the California Department of Agriculture summarize the results of workshops to create a unified list of priorities, including those that ensure California gets the level of support necessary to support our diversified agriculture system, for the 2007 Farm Bill and a blueprint for action by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and other state agencies, the Office of the Governor and Members of the California Congressional Delegation to advocate on behalf of California, its agriculture and its citizens in the development of national food and farming policy, including the 2007 Farm Bill;

Be it further resolved that the Office of the Governor and the California Department of Agriculture request that the California Congressional delegation work to ensure the following is addressed in the 2007 Farm Bill:

- Expand the scope of the Farm Bill to address the needs of California specialty crops while maintaining the support necessary to ensure all segments of California agriculture receive appropriate benefit.
- Improve crop insurance, develop grant programs with appropriate regional flexibility, enhance conservation programs, provide access to new markets and protect farms from invasive species.

- Ensure continued support of educational, research and extension programs that have proven so successful in helping to maintain the environmental and economic sustainability and competitiveness of California agriculture.
- Align the 2007 Farm Bill with the national priority of good nutrition by promoting access to healthful foods, such as fruits and vegetables.
- Create the appropriate safety net to assist all farmers to manage risk and ensure stability.
- Ensure flexibility that recognizes farm size, production systems and cropping patterns.
- Create a system that rewards farmers for providing environmental benefits, being good stewards of farm land, providing appropriate wildlife habitat and protecting farmland from urban sprawl.
- Until the WTO grants U.S. producers substantial increases in market access that is real, tangible and fully enforceable and until the WTO address farm program inequities that negatively effect California producers in the world market, the United States should modify its existing farm policies via the 2007 Farm Bill process to reflect and create a more positive competitive environment.

Subscribed
Helen Lopez, Executive Director

Approved November 30, 2005