APPARENCES

BOARD MEMBERS
Al Montna, President
Thomas Deardorff II
Adan Ortega Jr.
Craig McNamara
Donald Valpredo
Donald Bransford
Karen Ross
Ann Bacchetti-Silva
David Wehner

STAFF
A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
Michael Smith
Kelly Hoppin
Nancy Lungren
Jonnalee Henderson
Robert Tse

PUBLIC SPEAKERS
David Kehoe, Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Mary Pfeiffer, Shasta County Ag Commissioner
Rick Gurrola, Tehama County Ag Commissioner

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APPEARANCES (Continued)

1 Wolfgang Rougle
2 Rebecca Desmond, CEO, Siskiyou Golden Fair
3 Jessica Vasquez, West Valley FFA
4 Katie Loverin, West Valley FFA
5 Kaci Gurrola, West Valley FFA
6 Tom Vazquez, West Valley FFA
7 Mary La Salle-Rickert, Prather Ranch
8 Margaret Wagner, Redding Arboretum
9 Mary Occasion, Churn Creek Meadow Organic Farm
10 Betty Doty
11 James Rickert, Prather Ranch
12 Johanna Trenerry, Trenerry Berry Farm
13 Jack Cowley
14 Shannon Wooten
15 Wayne Kessler, Shambani Organics
16 Jack Hanson
17 Arnold Wilheme
18 Missy Lockie

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PROCEDINGS

PRESIDENT MONTNA: I'd like to call the meeting to order. I'm Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Ag. I'm a rice farmer at UC California.

State Board of Food and Agriculture is made up of 15 members, they are appointed by the Governor, serve three-year terms, and make up is from production agriculture mainly and also from industry and public.

As I'll tell you a little later, we are directed to inform the Governor and shall inform the Governor and Secretary on ag policy in the state by law, and we're traveling around the state in these sessions and love Redding, love the fly fishing up here mainly, and your beautiful city. So thank you for having us today.

I'd like to call on Adan Ortega to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Please, Adan.

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: Please join me in honoring our nation's flag.

(Thereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.)

PRESIDENT MONTNA: We traditionally call roll, but Josh, I'd like to modify that a little bit.

Starting with Dave Wehner, Dave, would you introduce yourself and your affiliation and your length of service?
service on the Board.

    BOARD MEMBER WEHNER: My name is Dave Wehner. I'm Dean of the College of Agriculture Food Environmental Sciences at Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, and I started on the Board in January.

    BOARD MEMBER BACCHETTI-SILVA: I'm Ann Silva. I'm a dairy farmer from Tracy. And this is my third year on the Board.

    EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDY: Josh Eddy, Executive Director of the State Board of Food and Agriculture, and I've been on since February.

    PRESIDENT MONTNA: Al Montna. And the Secretary will be speaking in a moment. I think he needs no introduction. But we'll go to Karen.

    BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Good morning. Karen Ross, I'm president of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers.

    BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Don Bransford. I'm a rice grower from Colusa, California.

    BOARD MEMBER VALPREDO: Good morning. My name is Don Valpredo. I'm a vegetable farmer from Bakersfield, California. And this is my second month on the Board. Thank you.

    BOARD MEMBER McNAMARA: Good morning. I'm Craig McNamara. I'm a Walnut grower from Winters. And I've
served on the Board since 2001. Thank you, it's a
pleasure to be here.

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: My name is Adan Ortega.
I'm a public member of the Board from Orange County,
California. I work with the firm of Rosen-Kendall and
have been a long-time agricultural advocate. Glad to be
here.

BOARD MEMBER DEARDORFF: Good morning. I'm Tom
Deardorff with Deardorff Family Farms. We're a fruit and
vegetable grower based in Ventura County, California. And
thank you again for having us here today.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, everyone. I want
to thank Josh Eddy, Josh and Robert Tse, Jonnalee,
wherever Jonnalee is, these are the folks that have been
working hard to put this meeting together we meet across
the state and end up in Escondido I think here in July, on
these. So thank you, all staff, again for this great
effort.

We have the minutes from the April Board meeting
that need approval, and I'd appreciate any corrections,
additions, or a motion to approve.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Mr. Chairman, I'll move
to approve the minutes.

BOARD MEMBER McNAMARA: Second.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Move by Mr. Bransford,
seconded by Mr. McNamara.

Any discussion? All in favor?

(Ayes.)

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Approved. Thank you very much.

We previously have the Secretary update us every Board meeting on any departmental updates, issues around the state. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for attending today. The Secretary's committed to working with the Board all the way through these sessions.

So, Secretary, Department updates?

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: No updates today. There's a -- it would take the rest of the day to talk about all the different issues including that farm bill that just is almost passed. We've got 14/15ths of a farm bill passed through Congress, and they've got one more -- when they come back, they've got one more title, the trade title to get in order. And hopefully we'll have a new farm bill that will do great things for California.

And I want to thank all the people that helped put a new kind of farm bill together. A lot of people said it couldn't be done, but it was.

And then what I'd like to do, I think at this point I'd like to go ahead and thank all of you who have shown up today for your vision hearing.
And, Al, would you want me at this time to
acknowledge --

PRESIDENT MONTNA: I think we have some honored
guests.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Absolutely. So let me go
ahead and say thanks and I'll go ahead and read the list
off. If you would go ahead and stand, we'd love to see
where you're sitting.

Mary Pfeiffer is our Shasta County ag
commissioner. Mary, good to see you.

Pat Griffin from Humboldt and Siskiyou counties.
I don't know if Pat's here yet.

Rick Gurrola is here, I know, from Tehama County
ag commissioner.

Mark Lockhart, the Trinity County ag
commissioner. I don't know if Mark's here yet.

Navid Khan, the Butte County Deputy Ag
Commissioner.

On the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, Linda
Hartman is the chairman, is the chair, and she's not here,
I don't believe, but David Kehoe is here.

And, David, do you have a couple comments you'd
like to make?

SUPERVISOR KEHOE: Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: David's from District 1 here
in Shasta County.

SUPERVISOR KEHOE: Mr. Secretary, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, and ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and on behalf of the residents of Shasta County, it's a pleasure to welcome you to our community this morning.

I have two observations for you. First, I would like to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Secretary, to you, Mr. Chairman, for coming to Shasta County as well as five other locations to hear what the residents of our north state area have to say. Oftentimes when you're in a small county, you feel that -- we feel that Sacramento is so distant and people are not accessible and not interested in what we have to say here in northern California; so that's why this is so significant that you're here today, and we appreciate that very much.

Mr. Secretary tells me that you might add two more listening sessions to your program in the urban areas, and I applaud you for doing that.

The second observation I'd like to make, as you well know, is each year each county publishes an agricultural report, and when I look at our report for last year, our total production value was $66,244,000.

Ladies and gentlemen, for a small county like ours, that's a big deal. And we appreciate you being here.

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I'd like to compliment Mary Pfeiffer for putting this report together. It's addressed to you, Mr. Secretary, and it means a lot to us. Thank you, and enjoy your stay in Redding, California.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you, David. Thank you very much.

In addition, I'd like to at least acknowledge the other supervisors, Mark Cibula, Glen Hawes, and Les Baugh, all from the Shasta area.

Larry Lees is the County Administrative Officer.

Larry, are you here? Maybe not.

And then we have the Anderson FFA students in the audience and their advisor Tom Vazquez.

MR. VAZQUEZ: West Valley High School.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: West Valley High School. I am so sorry.

I don't know, is Jack Hanson here yet from the -- he's a Lassen County Board of Supervisors -- hey, Jack, good to see you -- from District 5

Missy Lockie from Shasta County Farm Bureau, Executive Director. Missy's right down here. Missy.

And then we have Len Lindstrand from Shasta County Farm as well. I don't know if Len is here.

And Chris Workman, Shasta County Fair CEO. Hi, Chris.
And then Dave Meurer, who is Congressman Herger's aide here in the district. Nice to see you. And I'm sure I've missed others, and if I have, please forgive me.

But I think what I'd like to go ahead and do is at least get us started down a path here. The fact that we need to have an ag plan for the State of California is driven by a lot of things. In my own lifetime I've watched the collapse of several agriculture systems during my lifetime. I'm 52 years old, and in that lifetime, I come from Orange County, and Orange County in 1949 was the number one ag county in this country in terms of economic production. That's currently under asphalt. We're saving the land for later I think is what's happening there.

But without an ag plan, certainly you'll see areas, you'll see counties, you'll see places across the state or across the country pave over some of the best farmland you'll ever see. Is that a good thing or not? Without an ag plan, those kind of things certainly do happen.

We've watched a collapse because of dependence on imports, whether it's in Cuba, whether it's in the Ukraine and Crimea. When the Soviet Union collapsed, they were dependent on imports from all areas of the Soviet Union, so suddenly tractor parts, seeds, pesticides, fertilizers...
didn't show up anymore. And those ag economies in Cuba, in places like the Crimea in Ukraine, they just collapsed. Those ag sectors collapsed because they had -- they were dependent on an import for ag production that didn't show up and they collapsed.

We've watched Australia now, a very predictable drought-prone country, suffer enormous challenges. If you haven't read about it, their cattle industry is off almost 70, 80 percent; their dairy industry is off almost 40, 50 percent; they grow wheat and rice, rice is down to zero. Mr. Montna might be happy about that, but it's sobering to watch an entire nation's agricultural economy on the verge of collapse or collapsing because of these things.

Some of the things are outside of our ability to do something about, some of them are certainly within our ability if we look far enough ahead to try and get ahead. And I think there's two ways that we learn in our lifetimes or throughout our experiences that you can learn when you are in crisis or you can learn by watching other people in crisis. And I think the latter is the better way to learn. If we can learn from other people's crisis, that keeps us ahead of it.

And when we talk about that, we're either in crisis planning, we call it opportunistic planning or strategic planning. If you do a good job with strategic
planning, you can avoid some of the crises; but if we are constantly in a crisis, whether it's a shortage of water in this area or any other area, whether it's a shortage of employees, whether it's a shortage of other things or challenges from invasive species, these are the kinds of things that we -- I want to talk about.

By the year 2030 is where we're hoping to set this vision. Let's look at what you can have in 2030 and work backwards. Well, how do we have to get there? What are we doing now that's going to get us to that vision of 2030?

In our state, in agriculture, you've got all kinds of leaders trying to move us forward in all the different counties, parallel efforts to move the state forward in an agricultural direction. Parallel lines don't meet. What we need to do is have converging lines and vision where we're all headed, take those resources, take those efforts, and start to bend those efforts so we can get to some place by collectively working together. And that's what this process we hope to have is all about.

By having an ag vision, we can listen across this state, put together the equivalent of a state farm plan if you will and help that match up with the federal farm bill plan and better leverage the resources at the federal level, at the industry level, at the state level and
certainly in the nonprofits, all the different great
foundations and organizations that are out there that want
to move us forward.

So with that, I would just like to say this is
one of our first of the major listening sessions, I'm very
excited to hear what you have to say. And I'm going to
hand it back to Chairman Montna here, President Montna, to
go ahead and give us the ropes, and then we're going to
have a facilitator as well.

So, Al, back to you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.
As always, we're always honored, the Secretary
spends his valuable time to travel with the Board and be a
part of this process. And he's the one that initiated
with the Governor to direct the Board to do this vision.

I think the Secretary has very adequately
outlined our mission. This is your opportunity, the
public, stakeholders, to be part of this plan that we hope
to bring to conclusion, the road map to 2030.

As you do that and you make your comments today,
we would also encourage you to think about the now, the
next five years, ten, fifteen. We have a lot of
agriculture coming to us with issues today, air quality,
water quality, water availability, that we're designing
that road map also. So we want to incorporate this whole

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process as we get that vision out there and those lines do
cross, as the Secretary mentioned.

We have seen much more collapse than we'd like to see. And although I'm just a little older than 52, we
don't want to see any more of that. This is one of the most robust and viable ag economies in the world. We want
to make sure that viability continues on working lands for the future, in Redding all the way to Imperial Valley.

So we thank you. It's a pleasure to see the blue coats here today. I've lost my blue coat, so maybe I can
borrow one. But you guys pay close attention for when you're sitting up here and doing this for the State of California. So good to see all three of you here. I noticed they're all young ladies, and that's impressive.

So thank you for bringing them, we appreciate it.

All right. I'm going to introduce you to the gentleman who's going to run this listening session. Mike Lawler is a facilitator.

Michael, stand up. Thank you.

And we're going to turn this over to Mike. He's going to direct the meeting.

Will the Secretary now make comments as we proceed through this process, and anyone from the Board that wants to comment as we go through this, please get Mike's attention, and he'll put you in the meeting.
FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Welcome, and thank you,
Secretary Kawamura and President Montna, for the
invitation to be here, and thank you to the Board for the
support.

My name is Michael Lawler. And I'm a facilitator
from UC Davis. I actually have a full-time job running a
research center and running a center for human services.
I'm actually a developmental psychologist, so although I
come from an ag family, I went in a different direction.
But I work at UC Davis. I care deeply about these issues.
And we have a program there called Common Ground that
works at facilitating various public policy issues. And
so when the invitation came to join you today in Redding,
I jumped at the opportunity to be with you today.

What I'd like to do is go over some very general
ground rules for our discussion today. My understanding
from the Secretary and the President is they really do
want to hear the issues, they really do want to get your
feedback, so in order to structure that, just some general
ground rules that I want to go over.

The four questions, and I see that posted over
there, what is your vision for California's agriculture by
2030? And President Montna had mentioned to me and
mentioned to all of you that that's important, but also
not to forget about the next five years and the proximate
history and issues that are in front of us.

Second question, what will be the biggest challenge in achieving that vision? Again, your specific issues are important to be heard today.

In 2030, how has public perception of agriculture changed? As somebody who grew up in Orange County, I was surprised by Secretary Kawamura’s comments, although I do recall the orange groves as a kid.

And then, what is a must have ag vision for California?

So in order to get all that accomplished and to get everybody's comments, we're going to have speakers come up here to this podium and address the Board. And you're going to be videotaped, you're going to be audiotaped, and it's going to be transcribed. That transcription is going to be available on the public website. No pressure. We're going to limit it to five minutes. But let me talk about generally what we'd like to have as ground rules. And these are sort of the common themes, but it's always good to go over them.

Everyone will treat everyone else with respect, both the Board will treat the public with respect and back and forth. As your facilitator, my job is to get out of the way; so I will reserve the right to intervene, but I'm assuming I won't have to intervene or interrupt anybody.
Each person will strive to be complete and concise. To help us, we actually have a timer on the upper left-hand corner starting with five minutes, and our coordinator, Jonnalee, said that does work, and there's a beeper that goes off, so we're going to test that out. So it's one of those things that you can't dodge it. It's going to be right there for everybody to see. So please pay close attention to it.

We do have a limited number of speakers, so it looks like we have plenty of time for everybody; so we can maybe fudge a few seconds here and there, but try to stay at five minutes.

We'll also want to stick to the topic under discussion today, so our four broad questions. And I also understand that the Board and the Secretary may have follow-up questions or comments that they'll make to the speakers.

Cell phones and pagers, please turn them off, if you could do that now, or turn them to vibrate or whatever is least disruptive.

I'm going to call each speaker by your number. There is a list of speakers. So when you come up, pronounce clearly your name, if it needs to be spelled, feel free to do that, and your association or your

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affiliation, if you're an independent farmer or private
citizen or you're representing an organization.

Speakers are also welcome to pass. If your
number is called, you're welcome to say, boy, that --
everybody else has talked about my issue, it's been
covered. So feel free to pass on that. Just let me know.

And you're encouraged to address the important
aspects of the four guiding questions. And we'll
receive -- there will be a bell when there's one minute
remaining? Jonnalee, is that -- Jonnalee will create some
kind of, yeah. And again, it's right in front of you.

And questions to the panel, to the Board, will be
written down by staff and used for reference during the
time remaining, if any, after every speaker has had a
turn. So what that means is you may pose a number of
questions to the Board, and there may be a lot of
questions, those will be recorded; so as we have time
after the public comment, perhaps the Board can address
some of those.

Written input on the ag vision is welcome, and
you can also send your comments directly online to
agvision@CDFA.ca.gov. So if you don't choose to comment
today, you can choose to comment online.

I will manage the discussion today, but again, my
objective for the day is to stay out of the way and to let
the experts hear and the experts on the Board have their sharing and their discussion. And then, again, you will be audiotaped, videotaped, and transcribed, and the transcriptions will be available for this session, the Sacramento session and -- how many other -- several other sessions that will be recorded throughout the state, and those will also be available.

Okay. Is everybody ready? Did I miss anything? Mr. Secretary, Mr. President, anything? We're ready to go. Terrific.

So we're going to speaker number one. If you could please come to the podium and present your comments.

COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: Good morning. I'm Mary Pfeiffer, I'm a Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner. And since Kevin's my employee, I don't know if he has to turn on the timer. But I will keep my remarks short.

I would like to echo Supervisor Kehoe's welcome to you all. This is quite an honor to have the entire Board of Agriculture here in Shasta County. I don't know that it's ever happened before, not in my tenure. And I found out that I'm one of the longest serving ag commissioners, so I've been around a long time. And I certainly didn't have as much gray hair when I started out as I do now. But I really do want to thank you for coming here and listening to us.
I think it's really vital in order to develop the comprehensive plan that you're seeking to do to listen to comments from all areas of the state, from all types of operations from large to small. And we grow the most minor of minor crops in this county, and in far northern California, so again, I do appreciate you coming up here.

Our ag value has gone up last year, we're about to publish our report, and I just picked up the proofs from the printer; so it's up to a whopping 70 million. Doesn't quite compare to San Joaquin County and a few others, but it's still a vital industry in this area. And it's a vital industry because it protects so much farmland, it keeps so much of our land open, and it protects a little body of water called the Sacramento River and Shasta Lake, which of course is vital to the rest of California agriculture and is one of the most important things that we do up here in far northern California.

And sometimes, as the Supervisor pointed out, people don't always pay attention to us up here and we get a little sensitive about that, but we do have some serious issues that we do want to bring to your attention.

I've entitled my remarks as "must haves." That was one of the topics in the announcement. And I only have four pages of them, so I will try and get through...
them quickly.

My comments are my own as the Shasta County ag commissioner, I have some input from my colleagues and I think we have some general things we'll be discussing with you as you have the other listening sessions, but the primary issue I want to address today is pest prevention. I mean, that's what we do in cooperation with the CDFA. The county agricultural commissioners have a primary responsibility to prevent pests from becoming problematic in this state.

Now, obviously we've had a few problems lately. There's some pesky little moths down along the coast there that we are trying desperately to keep out of Shasta County and far northern California. And over the years we've certainly developed a very comprehensive pest prevention system, but it needs some help, it needs some work, it needs some review.

With the recent almost passage of the entire farm bill, we have a real opportunity. The Ag Commissioners Association worked very closely with a number of folks in Washington to make sure that the inclusion of the early pest detection program has stayed in place. And I would like to thank Congressman Herger for supporting that bill in that particular provision.

Now that we have an opportunity to develop a
program that can enhance our system to provide resources
that we desperately need, certainly at the state level and
also at individual county levels, to enhance our system
that we are currently working under, we need to work
together to develop that plan. The farm bill allows
states to apply to Washington, to the USDA, and we need to
do that together and we need to make sure that program is
implemented as it was intended. And again, my Congressman
has assured us that he would help us do that if in fact we
need some additional help.

And we also need to continue to work very closely
with the Department of Homeland Security, the USDA. And
I'm going to make a special plea for help working with the
United States Post Office. We do a lot of plant
quarantine inspection work in that area, and over the
years it's ebbed and flowed as far as our access to plant
quarantine inspections throughout the years. We used to
have meetings occasionally with some of the executives
from the post office, usually in Sacramento with help from
the executive office. We haven't had those for years, and
that's one area where we really need access in order to
deal with the pest issues that we're dealing with. It's a
pathway that's not being dealt with very effectively.

We also need to get our dog teams into those
facilities and make sure that our dog teams are trained
and meet the USDA standards to get into the post office.

So again, I'm asking for that help. And it really -- we
need somebody such as the Secretary to help us get to the
right people in order to do that.

Some of our other must haves, invasive species is
an issue that's near and dear to my heart. And I would
like to acknowledge Secretary Kawamura for his efforts in
coming up to far northern California, I believe the first
visit in 20-plus years of the secretary, and going on to
our famous weed tour a few years ago. We have, of course,
invasive species like every other part of California, but
weeds and noxious weeds are our biggest problems up here.
For our cattle producers, our range lands, our hay
growers, everybody, and for our timber companies, it's a
huge issue. And also for our resource lands, our park
lands, and other areas in our northern area.

County ag commissioners have some really terrific
local programs to deal with invasive species. In recent
years there's been a proliferation of weed management
areas, which are collaborative groups of folks who get
together and identify particular problems and deal with
particular issues, they identify specific weed problems
and develop plans to deal with those.

But the one thing that's missing from this is our
programs, our local programs kind of got shoved to the
side a little bit. It's kind of a sensitive issue with me. And I think that it's a valuable program that people don't recognize. It's very -- relatively cheap to run, it's very efficient. And several years ago we talked to folks from CDFA who have now retired or gone on to other positions, and we agreed that it was time to review our weed programs, our county/state weed programs that have been in place for decades and have done a lot of good for us. That meeting to start the development of those programs has not taken place. And this is something that can be done over the next few years, and we're ready to do it.

We're the early pest detection and rapid response teams that you have out here in the counties on the ground, we get work done and we get it done quick. And I would encourage the Board to encourage the Secretary to start those conversations so that we can look at the plans we have now and modernize it and get it rolling again and see what resources that we can bring to deal with these issues.

And another take on invasive species or some of our pest prevention programs, I would again ask the Board to look at how CDFA is dealing with wildlife's -- USDA wildlife services. Years ago, up to 2003, there was funding from the State Department of Food and Agriculture.
that would help support the county fragile state cooperative program that we've had in place for many years. There were a tough bunch of times, and, in fact, those funds were pulled back, there's no state support. It's a vital program, especially up here in far northern California, in the Sierra foothills and actually everywhere in California. Our livestock folks desperately need the program. And I think you'll hear in a few minutes our beekeepers need the program.

Our beekeepers are losing ground because there are subdivisions going in, there are more people moving up here, so there are fewer places to put the bees that are critical, obviously, for the rest of California. And so we're having trouble finding places to put the bees. There are more bears in particular, and it's creating quite a lot of havoc and difficulty for them to manage their bees. And the beekeepers up here are kind of special people because they produce queen bees. I mean, we're the queen bee capitol of the world if you go ten miles east of here. So it's an important -- you know, we're the nursery of all the bees in California. So it's a very important program, and I would ask that you consider that.

When you think about the e.coli outbreak and some of the things that these wildlife management specialists
could do to help growers deal with some of those animal
problems, we probably would be further ahead than we
currently are.

And to change the subject a little bit, one of
the crops that we do grow up in northern California, from
Siskiyou County down actually through the San Joaquin
Valley, we grow a lot of nursery stock, and especially
strawberry nursery stock. And I think everybody
recognizes that growers are under a lot of pressure to
change the pest management systems because of the eventual
elimination of methyl bromide and other fumigants from
their array of pest management tools, and I would request
that, again, that we work on some of the pest management
systems for some of those minor crops. And granted, it's
not necessarily something that's done by CDFA, but the
universities are, you know, certainly involved in that;
but it's a very important issue up here because it's
really one of the few high value commodities that we do
produce up here.

I'd like to switch gears a little bit and talk
about farmers' markets. Over the last ten years since
I've been commissioner, the farmers' markets here, I think
like in every other part of California, have expanded
dramatically, and, you know, they're great places to go.
People get out there, they buy things, our public health
department has promoted them, and we're certainly seeing a
lot more families out there, it's fun. You know, I like
going when the market managers aren't mad at me as the ag
commissioner, but, you know, they're fabulous. And I've
been to San Luis Obispo, and Los Gatos and some of these
other markets, that, you know, they're just great things
to go to and a great way for folks to meet farmers and
understand where their food is coming from.

The one thing I would request, and, again, I
think this will take some years, is that the regulatory
burdens, especially on the ag commissioner's office is
getting to be -- it's more than it needs to be. I would
hope that we could have discussions about how we can
streamline the regulatory burden for our offices and
certainly for the producers as well. We want to make sure
that there's a robust industry out there, we want to help
those small producers as well, but some of the things we
do are just silly frankly, and I don't think they add
value to the program. And, you know, our association is
certainly willing to talk to you about that, but I almost
get the feeling -- this is one of those examples where
perhaps interest in other parts of the state run some
portions of the program and create a lot of work for us up
here.

I would like to close my remarks with kind of an
odd issue perhaps, but administrative issues. We're all
going through a lot of succession planning, a lot of
people are retiring, we're getting a lot of new folks on
Board, certainly the staff at CDFA has changed
dramatically over the past few years. And it's been
frustrating at times for me as an ag commissioner to deal
with folks on contracts and paperwork and reports, and
this one asking for that and this one asking for the same
thing, and it takes a lot of time and it's very expensive
frankly.

I was wondering, you know, thinking about is
there some way as we bring new managers on board, and
these people are great, but they're new and they don't
perhaps have experience in this arena, they come out in
the field, they're biologists, they're -- you know, they
have other professions before they become managers. Is
there a way that we can have some sort of training program
for perhaps not just them but ag commissioners and
deputies so that they learn, they learn what the Board of
Supervisors does, they learn my limitations as far as
contracts go. And we understand how they have to deal
with issues with general services, so it's a bit mundane,
but it's awfully important. We spend a lot of time doing
that. So I would really -- you know, I see that as
something that could certainly be taken care of pretty

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quickly.

And again, thank you for coming, and I do appreciate it.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, Mary. One quick question for you, Mary.

COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: Okay, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: First of all, I want to tell you how much we appreciate our ag commissioners and what a vital part they are of agriculture in this state, and we have the best. And we really appreciate, the Board, and I know the Secretary, your association attends a lot of our meetings, makes a lot of comments, as a resource that we rely on heavily, so thank you for that.

And your comments on the regulatory burden, those comments are resonating throughout California agriculture, and the cost of that burden I'm sure on your department and on producers and the industry, whether it's processing or whatever it is, but that's one issue is very high I think on our list to continue to investigate and see how we can lessen those burdens.

COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: That would be great, because we do things that, you know, I just scratch my head.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: We do too.

COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: We all do. And, you
know, we'll always end up doing that, but I think there
are some ways that we can take care of a few things pretty
quickly.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Well, we're operating in a
regulated agriculture for the world in this
state.

COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: And I'm proud of it.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: And that's good in a lot of
ways, but also brings with it a lot of cost and
complication, and there are complications. So we have
that I think in the radar screen and will continue to
address it.

Other questions with Mary?

Adan?

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: Thank you for your
comments.

I'm just wondering, you described this regulatory
burden is requiring you to do some things that are perhaps
silly. Could you Illustrate --

COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: Well, I will. Some years
ago I had -- we had some budget cutbacks, I lost some
staff, we were pretty short staffed. We are required,
county ag commissioners are required to go out and verify
the production of every certified producer in their
county. That's a state law, statute says that. You go
out every year, you do it.

I was going out into the field and doing some of those things. So I'm kind of expensive when you look at our department. And there's a gentleman I knew, an older man, kind of a hobbyist, he had fruit trees, he had a permanent crop, he came to the market every year, but I was obligated -- you know, we were obligated to go out there. So I would go out there and have a, you know, very nice chat with the man and make sure he had his fruit trees still. And I mean, leave it up to the local regulators, give us some flexibility, you know, let us decide that there's no need to go out and check Mr. Smith's peach trees because we know they're there, or, you know, another member of my staff knows they're still there. So there's little things like that.

And I mean, obviously you're dealing with big issues and big problems, but I think there's some flexibility there. When that piece of legislation was going through, I was advocating for some level of, you know, expect every other year or, you know, allow some flexibility in the law, but I didn't prevail on that particular issue. So I think there are some things like that that we can do and still maintain the integrity of the program.

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: Thank you very much.
I was actually speaker zero, so speaker number 1 is going to follow me.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: First, my apologies to Commissioner Pfeiffer for missing speaker 1A, and she is exempt from the five-minute timeframe. So she's special, local consideration.

COMMISSIONER PFEIFFER: I apologize.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: No, no, no, thank you so much, Commissioner, my apologies for that lack.

So speaker number 1, would you please come up and demonstrate the five minutes for us.

COMMISSIONER GURROLA: Actually, I kind of appreciate that Mary may have cut into my five minutes. I was planning on using this as a listening session and taking back --

THE REPORTER: Sir, sir.

COMMISSIONER GURROLA: I'm sorry.

THE REPORTER: Excuse me, sir, could you state your name for the record.

COMMISSIONER GURROLA: Oh, I'm very sorry.
I'm Rick Gurrola, the Tehama County Agricultural Commissioner. And I do appreciate the Board coming up to Redding today and to Secretary Kawamura.

Again, to back up, I was planning on using this
listening session to take back some of the comments and
the ideas back to my board working with my CAO, but,
however, having the opportunity to address the Board, I
would like to go on record on a few items.

I would like to reiterate some of the comments
that my esteemed colleague from the north, Mary, had made.
We share the same concerns and the same problems.

I was actually born in Redding, California, and I
live 15 miles from where I was born and my roots are deep
in agriculture. Looking at the comments that you would
like to address today, as far as where we're going to be
30 years from now, if I knew where we were going to be in
30 years from now, I'd be a rich man if I could predict
the future; but where we're going to be 30 years from now
is the blue coats, the FFA. Very proud to say one of the
children here today is my youngest daughter. I didn't
know she was going to be here today. And I guess she's
going to speak. And so we get to kind of speak off the
cuff today and I appreciate that. But our future is in
the Future Farmers of America and the younger agricultural
generation.

When I was in FFA I knew I wanted to be in
agriculture. I was originally going to go into
agricultural education, and I appreciate what Tom Vazquez
does. When I had my taste of agricultural education, I
knew that I did not have the temperament to do that, and I
really appreciate what ag teachers do today.
To get back on track and to reiterate what Mary
had commented on as far as pest prevention, pest
quarantine, pest detection and pest exclusion, that's the
biggies for California. We now have acronyms that's in
our everyday language. We have RIFA, GWSS, SOD, LBAN.
That's something that we don't get up in northern
California very often.
Coincidentally, two weeks ago my staff
intercepted a glassy wing sharpshooter egg mass. So
luckily it was a non-viable egg mass, but because of the
training, that stuff, that if we weren't looking out for,
as everybody's well aware of, that's something that can
cause millions and millions of dollars of damage.
Tehama County is -- the crop report I'm
presenting to the Board of Supervisors next week, we're a
little larger than Shasta County, we set a new record this
year, it's 190- little over $192 million. The specialty
crops that we have as members of the board, we have dairy,
we have walnuts, we have rice, we have grapes. Orchard
crops were also our largest. We also have almonds, we
have prunes. We have specialty crops. We have figs.
I think the biggest challenge for us as ag
commissioners is the regulatory process. Agricultural
commissioners, we are expected to both protect and promote agriculture. We have a double-edged sword there. We need to advocate for the agricultural industry.

I'm currently working -- I've met with Shannon Wooten. We're currently in the process of developing an apiary ordinance in Tehama County to help protect our bee industry. We're having issues with the urban encroachment that are taking away historical bee arts and we're trying to protect that. We have housing developments that are going to be someday moving into the area that are threatening the lifestyle and the agricultural industry.

I guess as far as the regulatory process that I would like to -- is that through the local, excuse me, the northern counties is that we are entrusted to enforce our local ordinances, the state laws, the state regulations, and at least in Tehama County, we try to do that with common sense. We try to work with our growers. We try to do that with education, we try to do that with workshops.

As everybody I'm sure is aware of, there are new enforcement response regulations. That's something that's not new to Tehama County, that's something that we had been doing, it's a tradition as far as uniformity and consistency, but I know that's something that's been brought into the state as a uniform level of consistence here for enforcement.
In closing, I guess that the biggest challenge that we're going to have is the sustainability of agriculture and the fight that we're going to have with the urban encroachment and losing our land to development and trying to work with regulations and laws that are not going to push growers out of California, California being the most regulated state in the nation. And hopefully we will be able to develop and work with the laws and regulations for some consistency and for a, I guess a common sense way of protecting both our air, environment, land, water so that we can keep California the number one ag producing state in the nation.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you, Rick.

Any questions?

BOARD MEMBER VALPRED: I think we'll have some afterwards too.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

BOARD MEMBER VALPRED: Do we have time for questions now or later?

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: You know, we do have time.

BOARD MEMBER VALPRED: I mean is the procedure will be questions now or questions later?

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: The Board can ask questions immediately after somebody has spoken if you wish.
BOARD MEMBER VALPREDO: May I?

Rick, I think you brought up a very important thing to me, and that is the future of the young people. We can have all the visions we want, but if we don't have bright, young people, could you tell us in about 30 seconds or very briefly what can we do to keep people like that interested in agriculture?

COMMISSIONER GURROLA: Well, we're going through the same issue as far as succession planning through the agriculture commissioner system, we're going to be losing a lot of agriculture commissioners in the next four or five years.

And I think it's going to be as far as targeting high school, starting at the high school level. We do have workshops at local fairs as far as targeting sixth graders and getting them involved in agriculture. But we don't have the problems that they do down in southern California. People here, we're getting a lot of urban influx, people moving up here, but I think because we're north of Sacramento, there's a lot of rural lifestyle up here.

So people -- Shasta District Fair is going to be coming up in a couple of weeks, a lot of people are involved in that; so it's not so much when people walk into the sheep barn or the hog barn, you know, watching my
daughter, helping her, you know, they've shown livestock
through that, that still get some, what we call, you know,
city folk coming in, that have never been around
livestock.

So I think it's getting out and getting people
involved in farming, you know, letting them know where
that glass of milk is coming from. You know, how did they
get that ear of corn here.

BOARD MEMBER VALPREDO: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GURROLA: You're welcome.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

Speaker number 2.

MS. ROUGLE: Well, hello, everybody. My name is
Wolfgang Rougle, and I'm a small farmer and I'm under 30,
so maybe I can answer some of your questions from the
gentleman over there.

Well, my vision for 2030 is that our state will
be a rainbow-colored quilt of small, vibrant farms.
Millions of land owners will be turning out farmstead
cheese, raw milk, luscious farm-smoked sausages, eggs,
grain, rice, fruits, vegetables, everything. The slogan
"Eat Local" will be obsolete because local food will be
the norm, not the exception. The land will be teeming
with farmers, so it will be cared for well. Farming will
be profitable and our greatest young people will want to
farm. Land will be worth as much in crops as it is in houses. And most importantly, every Californian will have access to the most vital, nutrient-dense food ever grown.

In 2030 consumers will be way more connected to the land. It will be normal to visit farms to see how your food is produced, and the constant scrutiny will constantly drive farmers toward better and better practices.

And consumer protections of risk will change too. I think it's already changing. By 2030 I think people will be really concerned about chronic food poisoning, people will be tired of food that contributes to diabetes, smog, cancer, early death. People will demand food that actually supports life, which is not exactly what we have in 2008, at least not for a lot of our state citizens.

In 2030 food will cost more. It might cost a lot more, but because our food is so much more nutritious in 2030, our health care costs will be way lower. Because our kids will get lots of brain-building real food while they're growing up, they'll end up learning better, and education won't be the money pit that it is now. Kids will spend less time online and in gangs I think, unemployment will be close to zero, we're have real food security for the first time in a while. We'll even have fewer allergies. That will be great.
In 2030, we'll be paying the true, fair cost of food for the best food on earth and we'll be getting a great deal. Most importantly, the millions of small farms that we'll have will be independent. Farmers will be free to choose and create their own fertilizer, energy, seeds, growing methods, farm buildings, profits in kitchens, markets, and recipes. And I have nothing against large independent farms either, they'll always be with us and I'm all for them as long as they're sustainable, they employ lots of my neighbors at a fair, legal wage and they play fair, that is, that they don't try to use their influence in government to squash their competition.

But I want to focus on small farms today because while they're much more efficient at producing food per unit of land and per unit of water, they're a lot less efficient at producing food per unit of human labor. And I say hallelujah to that.

As it is right now, this nation has more people in prison than on the farms. Is that the saddest thing you've ever heard? Here we are throwing all this money at problems that farms created, like the water crisis for instance, and we're trying to get farmers to do stuff like switch over to drip irrigation, not use so many herbicides, protect the wetlands, all these things require lots of labor and constant human oversight. We've got

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like one person per hundred acres out there. We need more folks on the land, more eyes per acre as the saying goes, more folks growing our food and caring for the earth. And the way to do that is to have more small farms.

So since a switch to a nation of small farms basically solves all our problems at once, how do we create that? Well, I think it's not so much a matter of creating as a matter of unleashing. I think if you remove some -- I mean, there's been three speakers, they've all already talked about the regulatory burden. I think if you remove some of the regulatory burdens that are holding us small farmers back and basically serving only to eliminate competition for the large farmers without necessarily making our food supply more safe and secure, I think you'll see amazing agrarian resurgence.

I think we should all just be asking ourselves who benefits from the way things are now. And every time a new regulation is passed we should ask ourselves who benefits from that. Who benefits from ordinary citizens who can't really produce food for their neighbors anymore? And when the food system is owned by just a handful of rich investors, some of whom might not even live in the state or in the country, I don't think you or me really benefit from that on a daily basis.

Well, now for the must haves. I think we
absolutely -- I think to unleash small farms, we
absolutely need the right to buy farm products at the farm
gate. Maybe it's okay not to allow someone's kitchen
produce in the supermarket, but if ordinary folks want to
come out to my farm, look around, see how I do things and
buy a few jars of my salsa, canned in my kitchen just the
way I make it for my family, they should be able to. Same
thing goes for milk, cheese, fried chicken, whatever.
It's about consumer choice.

I think we need a constitutional amendment to
guarantee the right to buy farm gate food, the right to
buy vital, nutrient-dense, local-economy-stimulating,
environment-healing -- I'm almost done -- food, the kind
of food that only small scale ag can provide as far as I
can see. Well, that's at least as important as the right
to buy guns, and it's probably more likely to prolong your
life.

In short, all I hope for in 2030 is that the
government will make it as hard to run a 5,000 cow dairy
as it is now to milk three cows and sell the raw milk to
your neighbor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Okay. One question.

MS. ROUGLE: Sure. Hi.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: One we're struggling with at
Board level is the definition of "sustainable." Would you
give me your definition of "sustainable."

MS. ROUGLE: I guess sustainable, I guess I would fall on the conservative side of the old sustainability definition, which is that it's whatever allows us to meet our needs without compromising the ability of people in the future to meet their needs.

But we have to -- we have to take into account that we might just be living in the last few years of a season of abundance that might not come around again for a while. We have to just take into account that our state might get dryer, it might get hotter or it might get colder, or -- you know, obviously we're still going to lose farmland no matter what we do. And we just have to be conservative and plan for the future and ensure that our resources will still be around when we need them.

I think -- and on that note, I want to say that the narrowing and standardization of agriculture that we've been seeing in the past 50 years really only goes one way. There's a kind of social sustainability too, and if you lose the farmer -- if you lose generations of farmers and people who know how to grow and how to eat locally-raised food, you can't really go back the other direction quite as easily, so we need to be worrying about environmental and also social sustainability.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.
MS. ROUGLE: You bet.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

As Jonnalee reminded me, and we saw the one minute, that bell is not happening; so when you hear the bell, that means it's over. And thank you to our speakers for paying attention to that.

Speaker number 3.

MS. DESMOND: Good morning. I'm Rebecca Desmond. I am the CEO of the Siskiyou Golden Fair up in Yreka, and also the Chair of the California Fair Alliance. And I am here today to talk to you about fairs and the California ag industry. And I want to thank Secretary Kawamura and Board Members for coming to Redding. You get to come to God's country; to me it's a trip to the big city.

Anyway, what I see or what I want to see in 2030 is my retirement, but my four-year-old daughter's respect, appreciation and vast knowledge of the California industry and for the rest of her generation. And one of the ways that we can accomplish this is through fairs.

And fairs started out as -- they grew up from ag culture in California. All the farmers and the ranchers got together and they brought in their best stock and their best vegetables and their best commodities and things, and they had friendly competitions, and even went all the way down to the baking competitions, because those
blueberries were grown on somebody's farm to make that prize blueberry pie.

And if you want to know how fairs used to be, catch the movie "State Fair" on the old movie channel some night, and there are several versions, and you can see how we all began. And a lot of fairs have really gotten away from that.

And we have a challenge of trying to continue to promote California agriculture, but we don't necessarily have a lot of assistance from the ag industry.

And I just want to quote to you a little bit from an economic impact report that was conducted for California fairs in 2002. And it says, "When most people think of California, they usually think of large industrialized cities, television and films or technology and a dot-com industry. What they don't generally know is that agriculture is one of the State's major commercial sectors.

"The economic reality is that the feed lot is as important as the movie lot and the central valley is as important as the Silicon Valley. California is home to the largest food and agriculture economy in the nation. California agriculture is also the nation's leader in the global marketplace with annual agriculture crops exports in excess of $6.5 billion.

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"California truly helps feed the nation and the world. Despite the continued central role of agriculture in the State's economy, many urban and suburban Californians have little contact with the industry except through their local supermarkets. "California's fairs originated as agricultural festivals and have a continuing mission to promote awareness of agriculture. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, through its Division of Fairs and Expositions, has a legislative mandate to support and enhance this mission. Whereas grocery stores supply the public with agriculture products, fairs teach the public about agriculture."

So hence, here I am to offer up maybe some ideas. And what I see as a must have in 2030 is a good marketing plan that partners fairs and ag industry together. For example, in Siskiyou County, alfalfa is our second highest crop grown up there, and I have three bales in my 2007 fair. Over 30,000 acres of grain is planted in Siskiyou County, and I have one entry out of 17 classes offered. So we need to get a little more even -- and I'm in an ag county, and maybe that's part of the forest through the trees situation, but we really need to get that community to get together with fairs and help us.

Our mission is to promote agriculture, but we
need assistance, we need farmers to enter their crops and things. Livestock is pretty well taken care of. But on the other end, the -- you know, the commodities, it's just been in recent years that our farm bureau has started partnering with us in ag education, and that's doing wonderful things. We have a little farm on our fairgrounds that shows the ten top crops growing in our county. And we have to do a better job of educating the public.

The people come to the fair for a variety of reasons. My fair, food, number one. But they -- when we get them in the building, we need to, aside from just having the three bales of hay that are there, we need to have some education, we need to have people there to talk about it, we need to have storyboards, we need, you know, have things along that line.

So I just urge you that when you're looking at the vision for agriculture in California, think of fairs and know that we're here and we're ready we stand by to help you all if you can help us.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

Number 4.

MS. VASQUEZ: Good morning. My name is Jessica Vasquez, and I'm a sophomore at West Valley High School.
I'm a current FFA chapter officer and a current FFA regional officer. At our school there's 900 students enrolled, and 300 of them are in agriculture class.

One of my friends used to think that cheese came from a section of a cow instead of a product of milk. Ag classes teach us the importance of how and where food is produced. Ag classes teach the importance of managing our environment so we can continue to produce food to feed the world.

MS. LOVERIN: Hello. My name is Katie Loverin. I'm 18 years old and I too go to West Valley High School. I'm a past FFA chapter officer and a past FFA regional officer.

Coming from a family of cattle producers, I've experienced the ups and downs of agriculture firsthand. I have come to learn that things like fuel prices and cattle prices affect the income of my family, however, I am the minority of my school that comes from an agriculture background, and ag classes teach the number of students that don't have an agriculture background things like how climate, soil and water affect our food. And agriculture classes are very important and valuable in educating our students about agriculture.

MS. GURROLA: Hi. I'm Kaci Gurrola and I'm a senior at West Valley serving my fourth year in
agriculture classes. I come from a family -- I have
background with my dad, Rick Gurrola, being a Tehama
County ag commissioner. I hear the rising issues of
agriculture almost every night. Ag classes taught in
school today are not quite the same as when my dad went to
school.

And one of the main aspects kids are taught today
are the skills of becoming a quality leader using the
tools of agriculture. I've learned public speaking not
through my English classes but through my ag classes.

Out of the 300 kids enrolled in West Valley,
maybe ten will go out into an ag related career field, but
what's more important are the keys of agriculture that are
being taught to the remaining 290 kids. West Valley makes
it a priority that we maintain agriculture classes because
currently there are more kids enrolled in ag science
classes than in regular science classes.

It needs to be a priority for the next five years
or the next 25 years that the State of California provides
funding for the future of agriculture. High school
students in the surrounding communities need to stay
informed of the realities of our local agriculture. We
cannot predict the future because we have a hard time
predicting the day after graduation, but we can only hope
that our children and grandchildren will be able to be

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offered the same opportunities we have been given through
the organizations of agriculture. And believe me, the
opportunities we have been given have truly helped us grow
and made us proud to wear these blue jackets.

Thank you for your time.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Comments from the Board?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: I just have one critical
question for you three. Are any of you going to Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo? If you'd like to meet the dean, I'll
arrange it. I am a part-time recruiter. Just kidding.
We have great ag schools in California, I'm just a little
partial to one of them.

Secretary?

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Mr. Facilitator, since
there's three, do they get 15 minutes, or is it five
minutes each?

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: I think since they're the
youngest, Mr. Secretary, and I didn't hear UC Davis either
come out of their mouths, so --

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I do have a question.

You have a tremendous enrollment out of your high
school. Are they perceived to be an exciting place to be,
do you see it growing in popularity? How do the rest of
the students within your school, do you think, perceive
the ag?
MS. GURROLA: Well, I think that -- well, our numbers are always growing, that's why we always have more ag classes and more ag teachers, constantly growing; but I mean, sure, there are a few kids that look at the blue jackets and think that we're categorized as the farmers or whatever, but I think that the freshmen coming into West Valley are always excited to be part of the ag program, to go to the fairs and be able to participate in the workshops that are even given at West Valley High School.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: And can I ask one quick question. How critical is your relationship with the fairs as far as if there were no fairs, if fairs were not as strong, do you see that as a bad thing or good thing?

MS. GURROLA: I would say it would be definitely a problem, because even though I do have a job, I look to that for a lot of my savings that I'm going to be using for college next year, and I raise sheep and I currently raise steers, but I think the fair is definitely an important role in agriculture.

BOARD MEMBER ROSS: Thanks for your comments.

I have one question, and that is do any of you plan to go into production ag or any part of the ag food system, because there's so many jobs that are off the farm that are related to agriculture. And do some of your friends who aren't from ag get excited about career
opportunities in agriculture?

MS. LOVERIN: Well, being raised, like I say, on
a cattle range, I am definitely looking into, you know,
going or following in my family's footsteps, but I think
that students, like you said, that aren't involved in ag,
they really are interested. You know, when I talk to them
about it, they are surprised and interested, and it really
opens their eyes to where -- you know, they don't know
where food comes from, or like Jessica said, a 4.0 student
didn't know that cheese was a product of milk, so yeah.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Just a question on the
educational aspect at your high school.

Do you have options to take like biology or ag
science and get the same college credit? I mean, what are
you getting, 300 students, I mean, a third of your school
takes ag classes, which is extremely important because
you're educating a much larger base of students than most
schools are able to do. And I'm just curious to know how
you're doing that. Or is it -- or maybe he's going to
defer to them.

MS. GURROLA: I think it's the excitement that
our ag teachers bring to us. I think that the four ag
teachers that I've had in my past are the closest teachers
that I've ever made relationship to, and through that,
some kids, I mean, they come to school for comfort, and
they can find that through the ag teachers. They're always going to be there for us.

And the classes, like you said, my freshman year I took ag science, and you take the same state testing as other kids, we just learn in addition to the ag field, you also learn the science part of it, we take the same test. And the second test, I took ag biology and was able to take the same test as the sophomores in my class. And so kind of depends on a preference, but I think ag science is more important.

MR. VAZQUEZ: If you'd like me to address that, our freshman ag science class -- I'm Tom Vazquez -- gets earth science credits, we take the state or the science test. Our ag biology class is a sophomore class, and it gets CSU, UC lab science entrance requirement. We have an ag econ class that gets CSU, UC econ credit. And we are currently trying to get a floral design class to get the CSU, UC fine art credit.

So by offering those higher-level type courses, we're able to keep these good kids. We have a large percentage of our students that go on to university right out of high school taking four years of ag. In fact, our last three ASB presidents have all been our FFA kids.

BOARD MEMBER ROSS: I really didn't mean the ag teacher, and her comments reinforced that, that the ag
teacher personally makes a difference in motivating those people.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Whatever you're doing, Tom, you should bottle it I think.

Adan, you had a question, and then Mr. McNamara after that.

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: This question is for you, as well as for Ms. Rougle who just spoke recently.

One of my evolving theories -- I'm very surprised that I haven't heard the term "global warming" or "climate change" or anything like that. I'm not saying that it should come up, I'm just saying that everywhere else in the state where I go, when we talk about these topics, you know, there's that. So I'm curious about your perception of those dynamics.

And then secondly, at least where I come from in southern California, everybody's an environmentalist now. I mean, you look at websites for corporations and environmental groups and they're all beginning to look more and more alike, saying more and more of the same thing.

So I'm wondering from the perspective of those of you here, how much of a distinction or a demarcation is there between what you do in protecting farming and open space and defending food versus those that look at...
protecting the environment, preservation, fighting climate change? I'm just interested in that dynamic.

Is there -- for example, I could start with the question is there a separate environmental club at your school, and what would be the interaction, or is it indistinguishable?

MS. LOVERIN: Well, no, there isn't -- there isn't a club at our school, but I think that environmentalists and what we are trying to do is very similar but in, I guess, different ways.

You know, just environmentalists, global warming, I guess, and global warming that really affects farming, along those lines, and if it were to happen or if it is, like people say it's going to, that would be a devastation to the growers and like to my family, cattle producers.

So I think we are kind of headed in the same direction.

BOARD MEMBER MCNAMARA: Thank you so much. It's great to have you here. It's wonderful to have a mentor and a teacher like yours here as well.

My question, you mentioned 300 students, out of that 10 will go into production ag, and so there's 290 left. Have your classes and your teachers been able to share with you the myriad of opportunities in agriculture, the jobs that are available, not just that, but the tremendous demand for your services? We desperately need
you. We're aging out, many of us, not just as farmers but
as researchers, as marketers, everything that supports the
overall agricultural economy.

So as seniors, two of you are seniors, one of you
is a sophomore, do you have that, and do you think the
other 290 of you are impressed and are thinking about a
future not just as a producer but as a tremendous
supporter of agricultural economy for California?

MS. GURROLA: Well, I think that we -- there's
workshops that we go to just of agriculture job
opportunities and the need for the teachers and all the
different jobs pretty much. And, truly, I never realized
that there's something like this through agriculture type
place, and people come speak, things like this. I think
kids don't really understand. But definitely they know
that there's a need for the rising agriculture teachers.
But for the agriculture jobs, yes, I think that the kids
understand that. I don't know if there's a push for them
to actually go for it and do it.

BOARD MEMBER McNAMARA: Okay. I have one charge
for you. Two more weeks of school left?

MS. GURROLA: Five days.

BOARD MEMBER McNAMARA: Five days. You got a
short time on you. You've got to go back and tell them.
You've got to bring them together in one of your last
classes and let them know that you're desperately needed
in this world of agriculture.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you very much.

Number 9?

MS. LaSALLE-RICKERT: Good afternoon,

Mr. Secretary, and Members of your Board. I want to thank
you for taking the time to visit the north state and
asking for input from the residents here for their vision
for agriculture in California.

I'm sorry, my name is Mary LaSalle-Rickert. And
I'd just like to make a personal note. We're focusing on
the FFA today, my grandfather started, Julian McPhee,
started the FFA program in California in 1929. My father
was just recognized and honored by the State FFA
Foundation as an agricultural educator, and I was the
first girl, I lobbied to get girls into FFA.

And I'm so emotional just standing here looking
at these girls. I was the first and only girl to show at
Cal Expo and at Cow Palace, and it was a battle. You
cannot believe how I fought to get girls into FFA. And
I'm quite emotional right now. But the good thing is I
was where you are 40 years ago, and I'm here standing up
still working in agriculture.

So anyway, I'll try and calm myself down. I just
get emotional every time I see a blue and gold jacket, and
I know all of you understand that. My daughter works for the California Milk Advisory Board; you know her.

There are many topics that are very important that I'm sure others will address today. I would like to speak to one particular subject that has deep concern to me as a fourth-generation Californian.

I was born in Hanford in the heart of the agricultural community in the San Joaquin Valley. I have been a resident of Shasta County for 34 years. My husband, son and I are very active in farming and ranching in five north state counties. We raise organic beef, hay, grain, organic strawberry nursery plants, wild rice, just to name a few of the products we're involved with.

My concern centers on the amount of solid waste and litter that is found in our fields, in our pastures, and the illegal dumping that is taking place all along our roads. I spend many hours every month picking up garbage and trash in our fields and pastures. As our population increases, the problem will only become worse unless we develop an awareness of the problem and spearhead an effort to curtail this current trend.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has a stake in the future in our environment and the importance of making sure that we are good stewards of the land. My vision is to develop a campaign to educate and
implement plans to heighten the awareness of the current
habits of our farmers, ranchers and farm laborers, to make
sure that this state is in better condition in 2030 than
it is today.

Our state has instituted campaigns before, such
as Pitch In. I would like to see the agricultural
community make it a priority to become a leader in the
movement to clean up this state and make it a better place
to live. We need to be leaders in this movement and set
the example as good stewards of the land.

My must-have plan would include develop an
education program for farmers and ranchers and their labor
force about the detrimental effect litter and poor
sanitation issues have on our environment. This program
would be easy to incorporate into the current farm and
safety programs. These programs should be bilingual so
that they can be available to all members of the
agricultural community.

Develop a curriculum to be offered in schools
about agriculture and the importance of producing healthy
food and fiber. Reaching young people today ensures that
the next generation will be aware of the importance of
maintaining a healthy environment and being responsible
citizens. I can see the FFA taking on, you know, part of
a community service project.
Contact such organizations as the Almond Board, the Rice Commission, California Cattlemen's Association, California Ag Leadership Foundation, the Farm Bureau, just to name a few, and encourage their participation in this campaign. Develop partnerships with large and small farming and ranching operations so that this movement is a collaborative effort with the entire agricultural community cooperating. We could make a huge impact in improving our environment.

Make garbage cans and dumpsters with the campaign's logo more readily available on farms and ranches and encourage people to use them regularly.

Institute incentive programs to encourage keeping farms and ranches clean and free of debris and adopt a roadside program would include such farming, ranching operations to be responsible for keeping their land area clean. Recognition in local communities by CDFA and the local farm bureaus would help encourage producers to maintain an unpolluted environment.

My father always taught me to leave things better than I found them. Our family believes that we are responsible for improving the land where we work and ensuring that future generations can enjoy the beauty and bounty that surrounds us. I would like to ask that you consider some kind of plan that would make this possible.
If there's anything we can do to help, please contact us. Thank you very much.

Any questions?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, Mary. Your grandfather was an icon in education and the father of polytechnic education, and many of us have benefited from him greatly; so we thank your family for that and thank you for being a trailblazer for women in FFA. That's very admirable.

MS. LaSALLE-RICKERT: I'm sorry, I just couldn't help myself.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Any questions of Mary? Adan?

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: Thank you for your comments. You know, your quest against litter is one that resonates in many urban areas. In fact, a lot of the community farming initiatives in Los Angeles, for example, are initiated because people in a neighborhood want to clean up a lot that's been dilapidated, degraded, littered and dumped upon. So I hope that there is a nexus that we could move forward on.

I work with a campaign called Keep Los Angeles Beautiful, it's part of the Keep America Beautiful campaign.

How disposed are you and what resources are there to draw that bridge into the urban sector and perhaps into
this community gardening sector as well?

MS. LaSALLE-RICKERT: You mean, how disposed -- well, what do you mean exactly?

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: Is that something that's in the purview of your plans, or is your plan more focused just in attacking the ag component?

MS. LaSALLE-RICKERT: What I thought is that -- you asked about vision for agriculture and the perception that the public has about agriculture. What better way to prove that we really are good stewards of the land but to develop a campaign and have it be very publicly recognized so that people really do take us seriously that we truly do believe that we're stewards of the land.

Any more questions?

BOARD MEMBER McNAMARA: Well, just a word of appreciation to you and your family and your business. You are incredible stewards of the land, and your education that comes through your products speaks so well of it. So I think you are -- to answer Adan's question for you, I think you're ideally positioned to be a lead partner in any effort like that.

MS. LaSALLE-RICKERT: Well, anything we can do, just contact. We don't have a lot of free time, but we'd be happy to do anything we possibly can because we truly believe that the state really needs some help in terms of

PETE
trying to get it cleaned up.

Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you. We're going to have one more speaker and then we'll take a break, if that's acceptable to the President and the Secretary.

So the next speaker is number 6.

MS. WAGNER: Good morning. I am Margaret Wagner and I am a long-time organic gardener and also volunteer at the local arboretum. A few years ago we moved from Orange County to Redding after we watched most fields and orchards disappear; and coming up here, I had to watch the same thing, that good agricultural land is devoured hourly, you can say, into houses and concrete and shopping centers.

And I want to urge the state government, the local government to locate, find good agricultural land, protect it through zoning, through long-term contracts so it will be available in the future to our children and grandchildren to farm. Because what I am seeing as the greatest threat, you go to the store and you find garlic from China, you find out there is in the apple juice concentrate are apples from China. And I think it is not only a local thing or a state thing, it's a national security issue. If we cannot feed ourselves anymore, our stores and shopping centers that look all the same will
not feed anybody. And it will take quite an effort to
take them down and plow them up again to make farms out of
them.

Also what I'm concerned with is the loss of
topsoil in our nation, in our state, because we've had
farming practiced for a long time with all the chemical
fertilizers, with all the pesticides that will not improve
our topsoil. And I would ask the Board to promote through
education, through funding, through research, the effort
of organic farming, of sustainable farming.

And you asked a couple of times, what is
sustainable. It is making my soil better than it was
before or at least keep it fertile through the addition of
nutrients, of manures, all of this that's usually thrown
away because our agriculture is so much fragmented. The
one farmer grows only wheat and he throws away his straw,
The other farmer has cows and he throws away his cow
manure. And so those are things that I'm really concerned
about.

And I hope you -- and I'm really happy that you
came up to hear what we ordinary citizens feel about those
issues. Also, what I really appreciate is that since I'm
in California, that's over 20 years, there are so many
more farmers' markets. And I would also plead to make
life easier for the small farmer, to take away some of the
regulations, because hundreds of years ago not many people
died because they'd gotten some food from a local farmer.
And that is what I really would ask you to work on.

Any questions?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Just so you know, Margaret,
the Board, I think it was in November of '06, the hearing
was on National Security Agriculture. It's a very, very
important element of national security and something that
we continue to pursue. Because it is -- you're right,
sovereignty is an issue also. And it may be the bridge to
the urban community that we need our image in
United States agriculture -- it's not good today, and
especially -- in all segments of agriculture, and we need
to do a lot of work on that and improve that. But that's
an issue that is very important to us, and I'm sure we
will -- as all your issues are, and we'll continue to
pursue them.

MS. WAGNER: Now, one question I have, how much
resources are being devoted to checking our harbors, our
airports and our borders for food or anything that's
coming in that could hurt us? Because in like the big
containers coming from China, everybody could plant a bomb
or anything that would really devastate the local areas
down south.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I'm glad you brought that
subject up. That's one of the things that everybody in
this audience is -- I would welcome and encourage them to
do is write a letter to your Congressman, write a letter
to our senators and inform them that we must keep a
strong -- we keep it an infrastructure for pest exclusion,
inspection and quarantine control, and I think the
agricultural commissioners, who are the front line that
work with all of us to make sure we don't get a disease or
a pest or something that will collapse your farm or hurt
your production. So thanks for saying that.

It is not a system that is as robust, as strong
as invested as it should be. In fact, it's actually
deteriorated. Even though we've had more imports than
ever, we've actually reversed ourselves in that
infrastructure. So thanks for mentioning that.

And please, everybody, send those letters.

MS. WAGNER: All right. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: It's an issue the Secretary
continues to pursue, but all that takes money, so his
request is something that we hope you will all follow up
on. This is very important to the security of this
country and a safe food supply.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Let's go ahead and take a
break until 11:30. So we'll just reconvene at 11:30; it's
just under ten minutes.
PRESIDENT MONTNA: I've got 11:30.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Like I said, we will reconvene at 11:35.

A reminder from local county staff to make sure that food doesn't come into the chambers, it stays out there or outside. There are some drinks. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: We will convene at exactly 11:35.

(Whereupon a recess was taken.)

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: We'll go ahead and proceed as we had before, try to -- if we could ask our speakers to be as tight as possible in that five-minute timeframe, everybody's been really good, but we'll have to pay attention.

And, Mr. President and Mr. Secretary, if we could continue the questions after the speakers, but if we could look at limiting those questions as much as possible. And if there are some larger issues, we can defer till after all the speakers are finished.

We have about nine more speakers.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: We'll hold it like to one question from the Board, whoever that person is, and then we will -- the Board members will make notes. We'll have those people come back if there's anything further we want to pursue.
Is that all right with the Board?

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: All right. Thank you, sir.

Let's go ahead and proceed. Speaker number 9.

Excuse me, speaker number 8. Oh, there's not a 7, 7 has been moved, so we are going to speaker number 8.

MS. OCCASION: Good morning. My name is Mary
Occasion. I'm the owner or co-owner with my husband of Churn Creek Meadow Organic Farm in Redding, California.
We live in Churn Creek Bottom. We are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers. We have four
production sites now. One is in Orange County, and it's a half an acre of avocados that you just can't grow up here.
Everything else is right here in Shasta County; two in Churn Creek Bottom, and one in Anderson.

Okay. We do a certified or a community-supported ag box delivery business. We basically are the personal farmers for about 70 families in the Redding area. We sell at the farmers' markets. I work full time for the State just like you folks, some of you, and have been there for 31 years. When I retire I was going to be a farmer full time, but it seems like I'm doing both full time now.

My husband is a full-time farmer. We employ a part-time student who will be going to Cal Poly this fall.
He just graduated from the horticultural program of Shasta
My vision for California agriculture by 2030, I believe cities which have nearby farmland and farmers’ markets that are year round or nearly year round will be the focus. The California farmer can do quite well with five acres. In our case, we have more than that, but to do the row crops, we couldn't handle more than five acres because we do a lot of hand picking, hand planting. We have the specialty products that you can only do that way; you can't have a tractor pick some of these things.

As a California farmer, we see that the large farms are being sold, they're being split into smaller acreages. Where we live in Churn Creek Bottom, there's a five-acre minimum. There's a lot of, shall I say, problems with the five-acre minimum because our county planning department feels that five acres is not enough to call it ag land. It's alongside the freeway, perfect for development as far as they're concerned. There's very little prime farmland in Shasta County. And as a member of Churn Creek Bottom Homeowners and Friends and a farmer in Churn Creek Bottom, I say five acres is enough to have to stay in ag zoning.

We make a good living off of this, and we'll make even more when we're both full time on the farm, but it serves a purpose, a purpose for the county, for the people.
who live here. We save energy by having the products
grown right here, drive them to the local farmers' market.
We have some families come to our farm. We built a barn a
few years ago -- I think I work for the farm by working
for the State -- but we put in a walk-in box in the
infrastructure for a commercial kitchen. We plan to
eventually be able to bottle juice, salsa and spaghetti
sauce for the local farmers' markets.

The large scale mono-crop farms where pesticides,
herbicides and chemical fertilizers are used will likely
shrink by 2030. This is due to the labor market,
tightening of the borders. The chemical fertilizer
practices, these are very expensive and also are reliant
on oil. No one wants to talk about that. But our cars
run on oil, so do our chemical fertilizers.

The local food in organic markets will increase.
People are more aware. They don't want to be modified at
our farmers' market, and we're trying to stay away from
genetically modified at the farmers' market. So all the
growers are not certified organic. They do try to stay
away from the genetically modified if they know what
they're getting.

Things are not labeled properly in California as
far as I'm concerned. People should know when they buy
that box of Rice Krispies that there's
genetically-modified rice in there. It's very, very sad.

The biggest challenge in achieving the vision, it's slowing the rate of farmland that's converted.
And I'm out of time, but if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Mary, thanks for your comments. I have a question on the zoning issue.

In our area where I farm, we'll have conservation groups that will come in, and they will take a piece of productive farmland and convert it to an easement, which goes back to natural habitat, which can create pest problems.

And one thing I've noticed on the five-acre parcel issue is if in fact you have an organic -- five-acre organic farm and you're surrounded by three or four just people moving from -- typically what you see is people moving from urban areas, and they say, oh, five acres is just a wonderful size and now I can operate. Do you experience problems from your neighbors, from pests and weeds and other issues? I mean, it's on a different scale, but I mean, do you have issues with that also?

MS. OCCASION: No, I really don't. We do a setback because our neighbors on two sides do spray Roundup, and so we have a 20-foot setback, a buffer zone all the way around. We till to remove the weeds. We have
a star thistle problem and we till for that.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Excuse me. On your neighbor's ground?

MS. OCCASION: No, on our ground.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Okay. But what do you do with a neighbor that doesn't do anything?

MS. OCCASION: Well, we don't plant within 20 feet of his fenceline.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Okay. Okay. So you're still --

MS. OCCASION: And when it comes to the pests, when you have your soil in balance, and the animals and the insects know where the organic farm is, we seem to bring in the good pests. We have never brought in a ladybug, yet we have tons of them. They live there. We have worms in our ground. You know, there are good things about organic production that are part of the balance that the old farmers knew and we're having to learn it.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: Thank you.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Number 9.

MS. DOTY: Hello. And I'm delighted you're here in Shasta County. I hope you enjoy it.

I'm an authentic little old lady. I'm 84 years old.

THE REPORTER: Would you state your name for the

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION  (916) 362-2345
record, please.

MS. DOTY: Oh, my name is Betty Doty, D-o-t-y.

THE REPORTER: Thank you.

MS. DOTY: I'm an authentic little old lady, 84 years old, and I'll talk about health, organic gardening, and the significant contribution my age group can make for taking pressure off the big food production system.

In 2030 I think we'll have far greater awareness of the absolute necessity to consume good health -- good food, rather, if we want good health. Since we'll be surrounded by people who are consuming better food, we will be seeing a healthier society with people making better decisions in every area. That's my dream.

But the biggest single difference in 2030 will be that it will be in for little guys to be doing organic gardening, and we'll see vegetables and fruits in backyards, front yards, window boxes maybe overflowing with bush beans. Neighbors will be sharing food, socializing, proudly showing their organic produce.

A completely different health care system will be in place. That's because the 2008 system failed totally to keep up with increasing health problems from so much pollution and what I call contaminated food. We'll see no sign of agriculture's major polluters, dinosaurs, because they'll have disappeared in disgrace. They couldn't
sustain the belief that their polluting was justified and the medical system some day would find cures for the problems they created by their pollution, but medical science just couldn't handle a job that big, and society just couldn't handle the cost of such massive numbers of people in poor health.

I'll review what I expect to see in 2030. Far more awareness that better food is necessary for better health, leading to a healthier society. It will be in for little guys to have a serious part in food production, and the health care system will have changed for the better, and the dinosaurs, the old polluters, will have disappeared.

So here's the question: How do we get from here to there? The good news is that I see signs already, maybe still small and scattered, but what I mentioned is already happening and I just want to speed up the process. I suggest we've been ignoring a huge untapped resource, that of women in my age group. I'm not ignoring other groups, just talking about the one I know best. For one thing, we respond when we're needed, we're made that way. My mother, before she died, insisted on stringing beans, snapping peas, these little things she could. None of us like to be helpless.

In our age group we also know the real
excitement, I'm serious, real excitement of fresh food.

New potatoes, I can't tell you what they were like when I was a little kid on the farm, peas, fresh peas, corn on the cob.

Over the years we've seen many friends and families come and go and we've seen with our own eyes how a person can make a complete change in health, recover from poor health with better food, especially when the person abstains from additives and preservatives, non-food.

In our age group we've had a great deal of experience with food. And multiply 84 years times 365, three meals a day, and I got 91,980 meals. If nothing else, we can be food consultants.

I'm suggesting small-scale gardening really is easy and fun and fits nearly every scale and age. At a minimum we can raise sprouts on our kitchen counters, share them with the neighbors. Maybe a few garbage cans filled with trash and topsoil and tomato plants, with enough TLC in our own compost, nothing more is needed but carrying out a pitcher of water or two or turning on some drip irrigation. We'll have no waste, as a big part of all this is a pleasure, believe me, I know that, of sharing our surplus with the neighbors.

In conclusion, I'm looking at elderly women as a
huge untapped resource. And I'm suggesting that you recognize our power to relieve significant pressure on our overall food production system. All that's needed is for you to help us spread the word we really are needed.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you. We feel your power, I can tell you that.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Are you taking guests for lunch afterwards?

Any questions from the Board?

Thank you.

Number 10.

MR. RICKERT: Hello, everyone. My name is James Rickert, and I'm with the Prather Ranch. I'd first like to start by thanking the Secretary on this Board for coming up to visit Redding, California. We have a beautiful part of the state here and we are very proud of our area and glad to have your presence here.

And another thing, I would also like to thank everyone in this room. Obviously you have a passion about agriculture in northern California, such as myself, and so I'm proud to see the faces here, the diverse faces here, and I think it's great. We here collaboratively can get a vision for California agriculture in 2030, and it's only going to be done by all of us.

2030 is a very interesting year to pick. I will
be 50 years old at that time. I will be a culmination of
a lot of years of hard work in the field doing things that
I do, getting myself to the age of 50. Hopefully I make
it.

I look back upon my family tree and I have some
very, very impressive people in my family tree. One was
mentioned earlier, Julian McPhee from Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo. He established the Cal Poly Pomona
school and was an advocate for California agriculture.

My other great-grandfather, George Rickert, at
the age of 50 he purchased a ranch in Bella Vista, which
is about ten miles east of here. It's actually the ranch
that I am currently managing. And I am in the process of
fixing up his old farm house where my great-grandfather
and great-grandmother lived. It's a lot of nights and
weekends, but it's a great passion to have.

So I look back at what my family's done over the
years, and it brings my thoughts to who I am and what am I
doing and what can I do to help better California
agriculture by 2030.

So you may ask now, what is my vision. I'd like
California to continue to be a thriving agricultural
state, leading the nation and the world in agricultural
ingenuity, increased crop diversity, and crop production
at the -- at no expense to the environment. I would like
to see sustainable agricultural practices widespread and
farmers actually caring for their land. I would like to
see a reduction of pesticides and fumigants on farms. I
would like to see government agencies actually work with
farmers instead of putting up roadblocks for us. I would
like to see the regulations that hold us back be released.

We need to invest in agricultural education, as
it is very important to train our future leaders in
agriculture.

I would also like to see a packed farmers' market
on weekends, and not just the weekend, every night of the
week. And a packed farmers' market means those dollars
are kept locally here in our community. We don't need to
be sending our money to China for purchasing cheap goods;
that's not a good long-term solution.

I would also like to see new outlets for local
agricultural products. Our company, we sell organic beef
at the Ferry Building in San Francisco. That is an
absolutely amazing place, and if you are a farmer or
interested in agricultural, I invite you to come down to
view it. It is an amazing area, and we could use
something like that here in Redding. Get the farmers out
of the 115-degree heat, get them into an air-conditioned
area, consumers will be a lot happier, farmers will be a
lot happier.
I would like to preserve agricultural lands as a vast resource. We've heard one speaker talk about the Churn Creek Bottom. There are other areas in this county as well that need to be preserved for future generations, future generations such as myself.

I would like to see agriculturalists and consumers connect, having the general public understand agricultural production and enjoying the beauty of agriculture and the environment. We need ways to control invasive species on range lands and pastures. I would personally love to see an organic herbicide or a nice biocontrol agent that would help work on the Himalayan Blackberry that we in Shasta County seem to fight constantly.

Consumers need to be excited about food again. The farmers also need to be excited about food again.

We had a speaker talk about the state fair program. My great-grandfather, the room I grew up in, I have a bunch of ribbons from him winning awards at the fair. We don't see that enough anymore. I'm actually moving out to the property where those awards were made, and so that there, I know I got my work cut out for me and I hope to follow in his footsteps.

We also need to protect our water resources in the north state, because at the age of 50, personally I
I would love to be out flood irrigating our pastures out of Cow Creek as my great-grandfather did, I would like to see that preserved for the future.

These are just a few things I would like to see at the age of 50.

I'm following my vision, I'm doing what I can. We're raising organic products, I've developed a way to grow strawberry nursery plants organically without the use of methyl bromide. We're doing these things.

And I just want to emphasize, I'm very impressed with the turnout. I'm impressed with the speakers. I'd like to see more people here. And my time is up. But also, as we go home today, everyone here, if we all follow our visions, if we all follow what we've said, we will make California agriculture improved by the year of 2030.

Thank you. Any questions?

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Adan.

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: What works in Shasta County in terms of the ag ethic that might be able to work in other parts of California? What can those of us that are urbanites take away with us?

MR. RICKERT: The fact that you're an urbanite is already -- you have a few strikes against you. We're in a county here where we have a lot of open space still, Redding and Anderson, Cottonwood. We're experiencing a
lot of growth, but we still have a lot of long-time farm families, long-time farms that are not being developed, people that actually care for the land and kids growing up in small communities.

In a large urban environment, you've got a lot of factors against you. But getting those kids out to look at farms, look at ranches, getting them out of the inner city cores and out into the countryside where they can view and experience the beauty of agriculture is really what you've got to do.

So I'd say book a couple vacations up here for Shasta County, and we'll show you around some farms.

BOARD MEMBER ORTEGA: All right.

MR. RICKERT: Any other questions?

Thank you.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

Everyone's doing a great job with the five minutes, so thank you. The time was almost perfect on that.

Number 11.

MS. TRENERRY: My name is Johanna Trenerry, and I'm from the little community of Happy Valley. I have a berry farm out there. We are small farmers, we go anywhere from two-and-a-half to maybe 40 or 50 acres.

I would like to give some ideas to this Board.
I'm not going to be around 2030; I hope my grandchildren will be on my farm and doing the things that I love to do.

Okay. Let every county in California have a right to farm so that people can't come in and force farmers out. Shasta County has that ordinance, a right to farm. Make people who buy next to farms sign a contract saying they can't protest against the farmers, their smell, their animals, whatever. Make small farms available for the Williamson Act. Encourage agritourism by protecting farmers against lawsuits. Pass laws that let farmers -- easier to sell their products. And I think there's one in the assembly right now, if I'm not mistaken. And I will be calling my -- the guy that's in charge.

Okay. Promote local buying. And if we -- I'm not going to say that.

Pass laws so that farmers can pass on to their children an easier way than all the laws that they've got going now. I want to encourage you to encourage 4H and the FFA.

The fair here, they mentioned the fair, it's awfully early in Shasta County, and a lot of our farmers don't have the product available to put in there. So it would be kind of nice to put it off for a little bit longer so that -- now, it works for me, because my berries
are coming on and I can usually make it, but most of the farmers of Happy Valley do not have that privilege.

One of the things we started in Happy Valley was what we call the Happy Valley Farm Trail. We have -- we started off with about eight farmers, we're now up to 46. We give out maps and we are online so that people can look us up and come and buy fresh locally. So I would like to see us encourage that more in our communities.

One of the things also was the labor laws. You know, in the old days, well, when my children were home, they all got out and farmed with us, they were obligated to go out, change pipe, do whatever was necessary. It seems like we discourage teenagers from going out and getting involved in the agriculture community.

West Valley had a program, I haven't used them lately, you could have the team, football team come out and work on the farm and then you would pay the school "X" number of dollars. And you'd feed the kids of course. And so that gave them a hands-on. Also through my church I've done that for kids that want to go on missionary work. They come out to the farm. And I do give the kids six dollars, I started, now we're up to eight bucks an hour, but I do pay the children, and they use that money to go out. But one of the children that did work on the farm did go to college and is taking agriculture. So I
think we need to do something about getting kids involved in the farming and hands-on.

And by the way, I don't -- I think we are having a climate change, and it's got nothing to do with all this other stuff they're throwing at us.

Okay. Encourage home cooking. I think we as a family have gotten away from that. When my kids were home, I always made them be home for dinner. And we cooked the food because we raised it. But a lot of people today buy instant food, and that isn't teaching children how to eat healthy.

I had one other idea, but it went out the door. Senior moment. And my time is almost up.

Any questions? Nothing?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: The child labor laws, many of us grew up starting on tractors and so forth, very, very, very young age, usually sitting on someone's lap, and that taught you work ethic very early in life.

MS. TRENNERY: That's right.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: It's a shame. I'm not sure we can get that one back, but I like your idea a lot.

MS. TRENNERY: I do too.

Oh, and for the person that wants to clean up their yard, we have what we call in Happy Valley, Happy Valley Pride Day. The citizens get out three times a year.
and pick up the trash. And I'm done. We also do other
things, but --

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

Number 12.

MR. COWLEY: Good morning. It is still -- oops,
good afternoon.

My name is Jack Cowley. I'm a rancher in
Siskiyou County. I live in the town of Montague. I'm
representing both Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association
and the California Cattlemen's Association.

I'd like to preface a few of my remarks by saying
that I look at it as a big picture rather than local. I'd
like to applaud the Department for having this forum,
because the future of agriculture, the future of
agriculture not only in the State of California, but the
future of agriculture in this nation is paramount upon
developing a very sound agricultural plan that's going to
sustain agriculture in this country and, frankly, in the
world.

You know, beef producers in the State of
California manage over 30 million acres of local land,
forest lands, foot lands in the production of beef for our
country. And by doing so, we are in fact ecologists. We
do manage the lands to the betterment of the land. Part
of our vision for successful industry in 2030, however, is
an uncertainty that surrounds us in the environmental
area, both economically and regulatory issues that allow
producers, and we need to be able to mitigate this so that
producers can focus on their job, and their job is to
produce food and fiber for our world and our state
economy.

One of the foremost challenges that we face is
the lack of understanding by the average person, in our
case, the State of California, on the challenges that
agriculture faces and the value of our safe, stable,
affordable food supply. We need to improve the awareness
of the general public of this. I think that's paramount.
That we ensure that the urbanites, the people that live in
the big cities, the people that are divorced from
agriculture truly understand what agriculture is doing for
them and for the State.

We've already discussed briefly the regulatory
difficulties, and they are difficulties, and they do make
it very difficult for us in production agriculture to have
a sustainable operation. We need to think about those and
think about them sincerely during this planning process so
that we can, I won't say mitigate, but certainly that we
can learn to live and to develop policies that are both
constructive and not just destructive to the agricultural

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I'd like to take a minute to look at the beef industry. Because we are in a global economy -- it's wonderful for us to think locally, but the fact of the matter is we are in a global economy. And I'd like to just tell you that in beef production we have been able through technology, and through primarily technology, we've been able to change the total tonnage of beef produced in this country from 180 million beef cows to 95 million beef cows, which we have today. We've increased the production out of those same by twofold. And by doing so, we've actually freed up the amount of land that was used with those 180 million beef cows to the size of the state of Texas and Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico. Now that's a true statement.

The thing that's sobering to me is that by 2050, a few more years later than we're talking about today, the population of this globe is going to reach over nine billion people. This is going to require that we produce twice as much food and fiber as we're producing today. California is a leader. We are a leader, we are looked to, and we need to assume that responsibility in making sure that we have agriculture as a number one source in this country.

One more statement, sorry.
All of the environmental issues that are pushed upon us, it's all regulatory issues that are pushed upon us, we need to be funded not on the backs of the farmers but on the taxpayers, all the people that want all these issues, that want us to have a healthy agriculture economy, let them share in the cost of this. Don't put it all on the shoulders of the agricultural people.

Thank you for your time.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, Jack.

Questions?

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: All right. We have five more speakers, and we'll go ahead; and if we need to take a break at the half hour, we will, but it looks like we might be able to accomplish that in the next 20 minutes.

Number 13.

MR. WOOTEN: Mr. Secretary, Members, Chairman, and the Board, my name is Shannon Wooten. My family homesteaded here in Shasta County in 1862, and that homestead has grown from 160 acres to over 5,000 acres today and cattle is still in our family.

But I'm a beekeeper, and I started 42 years ago. And as Mary so graciously referred to us in the bee breeding world as special -- I've been called many things, I'm not sure special was part of it, but anyway, I appreciate that.
But something is killing our bees, and we can't put our finger on it, and I think by elimination we'll get rid of some of it. The first thing that comes to my mind is chemical use. And I do not want to see chemical use stopped, but I sure would like to see it a little bit extensively studied. We have an old bee lab that's been reconstituted in the UC system in Davis, perfect place, we have bees there, we have specialists there. And the companies could be required to send samples of whatever they want to produce to those people and they can put them in the bee world. Right now, what they're being sprayed on are adult bees, and if it doesn't kill the adult bee, it's good to go.

In the bee world we have lots more facets of it, queens, brood, wax, and if you destroy any one of those sections, then the hive itself is going to disappear. And so by looking at these a little more extensively, I think we can eliminate one of the problems with the CCD problem, which is colony collapse. There are some other things on the horizon we're looking at; hopefully we can get ahead of it.

In our quest to try to survive -- I've been a beekeeper, like I said for 42 years, I was a young beekeeper then, I still am, because it's hard to get young people energized in this business. It's very difficult.
By trying to look to the future, and if we can keep our bees to survive to the year 2030, then maybe we'll entice some younger people to get into this business.

In our world, a bee location is like a piece of gold about this big, very difficult to find. Once you find it, very difficult to keep because of the influx of people. We're having difficulty running our bees in the valley. And to raise queens you have to be in a topography-favorable area and a climatic-favorable area. I just can't pick up my bees and move to the mountains away from people, I cannot do that. We have been pushed to the brink. There are no other places to run bees. There's lots of beekeepers that are trying to run in amongst themselves.

So education I think for our future is going to be the big thing. Right to farm is helping us, but we need to educate these people that are coming here that have not lived here. We move our bees six times a year, so we're not there all the time. A piece of ground can be developed and built from the time we're gone; and we move our bees back, and we're close to the house. We're gone, we gotta move. There's no place for me to go. The yards that I used to run 2- to 300, I'm running 500, 700 now, and because I have to. And so we have to educate these people in order for me to survive.
One other facet of this state, a little bit out of your realm, is the Department of Fish and Game. They are now land owners. And a lot of the land that they're buying up is river bottom land, prime bee locations, and they're kicking us out because we're not natural. And we are essential, but we're not natural. And so we have to try to get this mindset changed a little bit, because some of those grounds are the best places for bees. If we're going to get to the year 2030, we've got to maintain these bee locations.

A few of the things that are really -- well, has to do with Fish and Game actually, is wildlife services. With us moving back into the foothills, we're dealing with a lot more bears, and the bears moving out of the mountains. We don't have any wildfires up here anymore, the logging isn't as intense as it used to be, so the green growth factor isn't there.

And we have a bear problem, that they're moving into the lower elevations. I used to have problems at 2–3,000 feet, now it's under a thousand feet. And in order for us to deal with that, we have to have wildlife services. Their agents go with Fish and Game, they understand our business, they understand the laws, rules and regulations of Fish and Game, and they help us alleviate these problems. And not all the time do we kill
bears; we fence, we try to repel them, we try to do lots of things. But as Fish and Game's rule stays the same, the faces change, and so we have to reeducate these people each time they come in.

One other point that I'd like to touch on, and you brought it up, is regulations. This diesel retrofit that's coming in right now, I maintain nine trucks, they're not all brand new because I can't afford all brand new. I've got a lot of farm equipment, I've got some tractors, I've got some dozers that I use to clean bee yards with, not large, I don't run them that much, but I have to have them, and I can't buy new. So we're going to have to deal with these diesel retrofits on my scale on my time in one way, shape or form.

Got a few extra seconds left, and I think I'm running out of gas.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Questions? Secretary has a question.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Shannon, and Rick mentioned it earlier too in his comments, about a footprint for bee placement, for high placement. Do you see that -- is that already taking place in any of these counties, where you're starting to look into that future and designate areas for bees? And certainly are you aware of it taking place anywhere else in the state?
MR. WOOTEN: Not as such. There's a lot of areas that already have bees in it, and that's what we're trying to maintain, because bees can be kept in an area for different reasons. Honey production is one, queen raising is a little bit different because we require from four to seven acre areas, where you think of a bee location as, let's say the size of this room, you could pull a truck into it, unload it, it's right there, easy to fence, easy to maintain, easy to do whatever you do. But in the queen world, it's a little bit different than that. I won't even bring up the citrus confrontation. You will hear about that as you go south, so I'll leave that to rest.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you. One last question. Are there any succession -- are you aware of any efforts for getting young kids involved, more and more involved in -- I was a former beekeeper, and I was forced into it by my father, so I didn't come willingly to it. But do we know of any programs in that arena, trying to get kids, young people involved through FFA or through the fairs or through anything else?

MR. WOOTEN: There has been some courses at the colleges and such, and then we put on a demonstration on our ag field there, or city day through the Farm Bureau, and then also our local bee club tries to entice young people, hobbyists and such like that. And the hobby world
is what's really helped us I think in educating more
people, not all young, but into the problems of the bees
and how to keep them alive.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Okay. Thanks.
FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

Number 14.

MR. KESSLER: Hello. My name is Wayne Kessler.
I think some of my comments have been given out a little
bit, so I cannot go letter by letter, but concentrate on a
couple of areas.

I've heard a lot of very good comments this
morning, a lot of very good ideas, and I really commend
the Board for coming here and listening. I have never
heard of this in my whole life, both in Orange County and
up here, of having somebody come and listen to what the
needs and issues are. So I really hope that this
listening session progresses to some action, and I hope
you don't set up a set of false hopes that things will be
done. Because I've heard a lot of talking in the past,
but nothing has changed.

So I really hope that this will be communicated
to the decision makers, the policy makers, and that we can
get some changes. Because I think we are on the edge of a
crisis, if we're not already in the crisis, a crisis over
food supply, water supply and our health.
So anyway, backing up a little bit, give you a background, I am a partner in a family-run business called Shambani Organics. We are a bedding plants, a little nursery, and we supply this area with organic vegetables and herbs, little starts.

And so I come from an agricultural background. I grew up in Orange County and saw it disappear. And so I moved up here. And Shasta County and north state has a great opportunity to really be much more involved in agriculture on the local basis.

Now, most of the books I have read in the past five years since I’ve been back up here have been -- they come to the same conclusion, and the conclusion is that if local communities can control their food supply, their water and their energy, we can maintain or improve a comparable lifestyle. If we can't control these things, we're going to see a downturn in all of that.

And we're seeing right now a downturn in our health due to the industrialization of our food supply, where most of us are eating food, edible food-like substances that are not really food. And you can see it in our -- the health of our children especially. I heard on the radio this morning that one-third of our children are obese. That's here in California. And so we face this kind of health problem because we're not eating the
right kind of food.

So I think the issue really comes down, all of these great ideas that have come up, and I'm going to repeat them because I've got most of them here already, I'm not going to say it again, but it involves money, funds, reallocation of funds to deal with these issues. It makes a real big -- that's the biggest challenge I think we face, is finding funds to do all of these great things to maintain our health and our lifestyle and the health of the local economies.

And many of the locals speak -- I mean, speakers have concentrated on the idea that it's going to be the very small, five-acre farmer, the backyard gardener that is going to maintain our food supply. We cannot rely on the corporate farms. We cannot rely on the industrial processed foods that we are getting in our supermarkets. And so we must help the small, very small farmer, rancher to produce food. We also must help the idea that it gets right into the -- so the people can buy the food at the local market.

I concentrated on the idea that we needed farmers' markets, a more year-round type of thing, more access to the -- so the people can buy things very easily so -- you know, and we need a reorganization of the food to farm school program, farm-to-school program, because
it's the education of the children and the people that are
going to make a real big difference.

   And thank you for listening again, and I really
hope that this will move to something that we can be proud
of. Thank you.

   PRESIDENT MONTNA: We do not intend to have this
sit on the shelf and collect dust, we intend to put it
into action. So we appreciate your comments.

   MR. KESSLER: Well, I've seen it happen so many
times before, and we have here now going share your vision
for what Shasta County is like, okay? And we've seen this
before, but there's not been any significant changes. It
just goes on the table. So I hope we can move beyond
this.

   SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I appreciate your comments
about the fact that we potentially are indeed are in a
crisis. And as one of the other speakers earlier said, we
have been living in a luxury of abundance, we've got so
much abundance we think food can come and agriculture is
such an easy thing to do, but we've got a lot of
constraints. I surely appreciate your comments. Thanks.

   FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

   Number 15.

   MR. HANSON: Good morning, Mr. President, good
morning, Board Members -- or pardon me, good afternoon,
and, Mr. Secretary. My name is Jack Hanson, and I'm a family -- my family and I own and operate a Cal Cap operation up in Lassen County, and so does Supervisor Kehoe, if he's still here, I don't know if he's still here. But small and urban and rural are kind of relative terms. And to us, Redding is a big community, it's a metropolitan area, and we're a little bit smaller and a little more rural up there in Lassen County.

I'm fourth-generation Californian, I've been actively involved in ranching for the past 35 years or so. I tend to be more of a generalist if you will, and therefore, my comments, what I'm looking out towards 2030, will probably focus more on the socioeconomic aspects instead of some of the technological aspects. I'll kind of let them take care of themselves.

I'd like to thank the Board for hosting this forum, and I think it's an excellent exercise, and I along with the other people in the audience hope that something fruitful will come from it.

There are many common issues which are important to our state, to the nation and to the world. The production of nutritious, wholesome and safe food in sufficient quantity is obviously near the top of that list. And I continue to believe that producing food and fiber to feed the world is truly an honorable profession.

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There are huge, intangible rewards, if you will, which accrue to those that work with the soil.

With the last two years as a backdrop, I must admit it's a challenge for me to visualize our own ranch, yet alone California agriculture, where it will be in the next year or five years from now, let alone in 2030, so I probably would be more tempted to leave this visioning process to our children. Kind of shakes me a little bit to hear James Rickert suggest that he'll be 50 by then. I can remember James when he was just a young man running around out there.

So anyway, the changes we've seen in agriculture over the last two years are absolutely unprecedented. Dramatic changes in prices we receive for our commodities, cost of energy and other inputs, the cost and availability of land and water resources, it's absolutely mind boggling to me. The attendant risks in our industry, whether you're an organic farmer, a small farmer or a large-, medium-sized farmer, the attendant risks that we see right now are enormous, and I think that that's surely a great challenge.

I've often suggested to our sons, one of whom is in Cal Poly, neither of which are at Berkeley, and I'm sorry to say, I regret that --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You get five more minutes.
MR. HANSON: I was hoping so. I was going to caution you that I'm not accustomed to a time clock, and so I probably ought to warn you in the interim with that. But anyway, I've counseled our two sons, it's an exiting time to be in agricultural education, and then certainly a more exciting time to be in the educational aspect rather than out on the ground, I can assure you. But I look forward to both of them returning to our family operation in some form and helping me overcome the challenges we see coming.

With that background I'm going to attempt now to focus on 2030 and see if I can kind of answer the questions specifically which you may have.

My vision of California agriculture in 2030, I personally see a lot of the same issues, trends and challenges in the future which exist today. One I believe that will be solved, I'm not sure what the solution will be, I think the energy situation will be solved by 2030; I only hope so. I'll tell you, I don't know that I can endure it to go on much longer.

We'll continue to be challenged by mother nature. We're always going to have too much rain, too little rain, we'll never be happy with the weather.

We'll continue to adopt and adapt to new technology. I think in the livestock industry we're going
to see individual animal I.D. and trace back. We're going
to obviously work on genome mapping and genetic advances,
not to be confused with GMO or genetic modification. I
think there's a lot of things we can do to make our
production more efficient with some of the technology in
the genetic area.

Globalization will continue to be a driving force
from a macro sense on both marketing of commodities and
the cost of our inputs. Obviously I do believe that there
will be more niche marketing and direct marketing; I think
the farmers' markets are only going to grow. I think
there are going to be more alliances, if you will. I know
that can be a bad term in some industries, but I think
that's going to continue to occur, and branding of
products and more vertical integration.

I think competition for natural resources and the
recognition of the value of those resources by society
will continue to be a driving force for agriculture.

I think the primary political debate in 2030 will
pretty much magnify what's going on right now. I think
the primary political debate will be urban versus rural,
not conservative versus liberal, not republican versus
democrat.

I think for family-size operations, a combination
of off-farm employment along with your primary employment
on your farm or ranch will continue to be a trend that
we're going to see accelerate. We all know what some of
the benefits of off-farm employment bring back to the farm
family to keep it whole.

    I believe that the area which will present
California agriculture with its greatest challenge will be
our trying to retain our competitive position, vis-a-vis,
the nation and world. California has in recent history
and to its credit been ahead of the curve, sometimes way
ahead of the curve in environmental protection, product
safety and social consciousness. And while I appreciate
the need for us to be keenly aware of the way we treat our
land and our natural resources, I always strive to produce
and market a healthy nutritious product.

    If regulations at the state level are
substantially more restrictive and costly than those
experienced at the national or on the world scene, our
competitive position I think is eroding. So I fervently
hope in the future that the state and indeed the nation
will do a little bit better job, if you will, at analyzing
the effects, both intended and potentially unintended
effects of regulations and policies prior to their
implementation.

    I can't resist the temptation here to just get a
little jab on the food versus fuel issue that's going on
at the national level. I think that the race towards renewables and biofuels without full recognition what are now being termed some of the unintended consequences is causing a bit of havoc and dislocation in some segments of the economy, and I'm opposed -- I definitely am not opposed. And, in fact, I support efforts to wean ourselves from foreign oil, I think anybody would. And reducing our use of fossil fuels, obviously, I think is a goal we all hold out there, but more thought should be given to the difficulties of the transition and what measures should be implemented to smooth out that transition from the current situation to one that's cleaner and greener.

It's difficult to articulate one challenge for agriculture to achieve the vision that we might have in 2030, but I think if I were to focus in on one thing, I would hope that somehow society would be convinced that food is a strategic resource and it should be allocated by the marketplace, the resources which are necessary to produce it safely, sustainably, affordably, in sufficient quantity to satisfy human needs.

I think an additional challenge faced by all of us individually and by the state is how to recognize and manage the risks involved with agriculture. Public perception, that's one of the issues you wanted to hit on.
I think that society is going to see an increased value for food relative to other goods and services, and I think that that will translate into a yearning and better understanding of where food comes from and the resources required to produce it. So, in fact, I think the public perception of agriculture by 2030 will improve.

A must have, I think a must have, and I referred to it earlier, is a State government that realizes the value of a safe and abundant and affordable food supply and the resources required to produce it and a government which protects and enhances California agriculture's competitive position versus the rest of the world and the nation.

Again, I applaud your efforts, and at the very least I've been forced to work a little deeper, look a little deeper into my crystal ball, and despite all the challenges, I see a very bright future for my family and for California agriculture. But thank you very much for the opportunity.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Any questions?

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Yes. Jack, just out of curiosity, your challenges with fuel costs and feed costs right now, how's that impacting your operation? And you've seen this in the past, you've seen where it's headed in the future; what -- how do you project -- will
cattlemen and livestock operators take their own feed
situations into their own hands and broaden out that way?
How do you see a leveling of that field?

MR. HANSON: You know, that's -- it's obviously
an excellent question, sir. I think that when I look at
the feed situation, not necessarily at the fuel, but, of
course, obviously there's a lot of fuel in producing feed
for both our dairy herds and our beef herds.

Many of us, who -- as I mentioned, I sell hay as
well into the hay market, many of us in that area would
have preferred to sell $120 dollar test hay to the dairy
market and maybe net $40 rather than selling $200 or $250
hay and maybe having the opportunity to net 70 or $80.
The difference obviously is that we're putting in some
very expensive inputs up front without knowing what's
coming out the other end, both in the price of quantity
and quality situation, so I think that that's a real
challenge.

As far as the fuel goes, for the most part, in
trucking and so on, I can tell you what the cost of diesel
is, and I do believe that the fuel costs are probably the
primary driver that are pushing the increased food price
in the supermarkets and so on. And that's happening all
the way from the ground level, the producer level all the
way up; so I think it's a real challenge. As to the
solution, I'll leave that in your hands, sir.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Jack, on the strategic issue, and you're right on, I think we agree with you immensely, but when we get people to be as concerned as they are when they fill their tank on their cars when they fill their stomach, then we'll be there.

MR. HANSON: I agree with you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: But we haven't made that.

MR. HANSON: No, we haven't, Mr. President.

And I think the market is going to help us out a little on that, to be honest with you, I think it's going to start to come home to people. But thank you again very much.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: So do we. Thank you.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Our last two speakers.

Number 16.

MR. WILHEME: My name is Arnold Wilheme. I'm an old retired school teacher and I thank you for coming here and listening. I, along with others, hope that something comes of this.

I have so much to say. I failed to mention I'm bipolar, therefore, I figure I should get two five minutes. Thank you. And I have way more than that ten minutes will allow.

Shannon Wooten, my friend and beekeeper and
part-time teacher, has this lovely wife who was in my biology class. And I was having the students give oral reports. And I said, Glenda, why don't you give us a report on bees. So she brought the hives, the suits, the whole deal. And that was the worst thing she ever could possibly do, because I got interested. I said, can you do another hour? And she did another hour the next day. And then I started -- I wrote on the blackboard "Bee swarms wanted." And then I was off and running. And I ended up with 85 colonies of bees and almost got divorced because I was working late hours putting frames together and all that. And I have great respect for beekeepers.

What he did not tell you, and I'm really surprised he didn't, he should have given the typical pitch on, speaking of food, you know what's not going to happen without pollination, right, or some substitute for bees, because our crops, the almond growers will tell you that we have to have them.

I wanted to ask you a question. Who remembers World War II?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: I didn't fight in it, but I remember it.

MR. WILHEME: No, I didn't ask that; I asked who remembers it? Well, I remember it, I'm old enough to remember it. And I remember the term "Victory Garden."
Anybody ever heard that? Well, this is a lesson in history then.

A victory garden meant -- I know for one that you could not find candy bars; candy bars were all being sent overseas. And one of the things that happened was people dug up their lawns, and they were encouraged to do this. The attitude in World War II was much different than in any other war that I'm familiar with. People were so dedicated that they were doing really strange things like saving string, aluminum foil for gum wrappers, grease out of the bacon and so forth. And they dug up their lawn and made a little garden in the backyard. I have one of those in my backyard.

Last night we had this absolutely delicious salad out of that garden, and I'm very proud of that. I also am fencing another 80-by-80 -- 80-foot-by-80-foot plot. And I've got some of it already planted, but I don't have the fence finished. So I saw two deer yesterday, and it scared the hell out of me. I mean, they could wipe out that garden in nothing flat.

I'm jumping around. Okay.

Education, well, I did some of that, I hope I did. When my mother was on her death bed in the hospital, I went in the room and I said, Mabel, you ruined me for life. And she said, What are you talking about? I said,
well, when we were kids, you made us go out there with
those little dime-store hoe, shovel and rake while she did
the gardening. She said, okay, I want a row of radishes
planted right here, and you made us dig in the dirt. I've
never been able to get over it.

The future farmer people, what's running through
my mind as an educator is one of the most important things
those girls could do is organize an education, they
themselves -- I noticed the teacher did not speak for
them, he let them speak, that's good. They could easily
organize a program to educate elementary school kids.

And I told their teacher on the break, you don't
start educating people about agriculture at high school
level. You don't do that with brushing their teeth or
their personal hygiene. It's got to be started really
young. So every elementary school, you need to pass a law
that every elementary school has to have a garden and
every kid has to be exposed to gardening.

By the way, there's probably no questions on the
State exam about agriculture. I know there's none about
birds or trees because I asked that question. Oh, oh,
sorry.

I think something that hasn't been enough said
about, if any, is that the economy right now is not real
good. I don't know if you've noticed that. But I notice
a lot of people in my community saying, have you looked at what's happening to the price of food in the market? And I'm aware, I hear it from my wife, she does most of the shopping.

We are not isolated. This is an ecosystem we live in. If oil gets short and price goes up, the guy owning cows is going to have to buy very expensive fuel, so we're going to pay higher prices for beef, right? Yeah.

One of my favorite movies, and you've got to get it, write this down, is called Soylent Green. Soylent Green, people think it's about the fact that in the future sometime they were scooping the peasants off of the field, scooping them off and making green cookies out of them, called high-protein cookies; but that's not what that movie's about, is the opening scene where what's-his-face, Charlton Heston, is a security guard, he's in the compound where the rich people live and he opens the refrigerator and there is a steak there. He puts that in his pocket and takes it home.

I'm not going to have time to tell you what I really wanted to tell you. Okay, this is going to really be fast.

Recently we, the people in the community, the small farmers, formed a thing called the Bella Vista Water
Users Committee. The reason we did is because the manager of the water district was making a proposal to raise the rate of water 74 percent, which is insane. We have 117 people show up for the hearing and we convinced the board that wasn't a good idea. We're now in the process of trying to help them come up with a sensible --

One last thing. Here's a graph, which you can't see, but what it shows is that in the year 2002 there were 638 agricultural users. We have domestic rates and agricultural rated water. We buy it from the Bureau of Reclamation. In 2002 there were 638. In 2003 there were 635. And in 2004 there were 648. In 2005 there were 616. And in 2006 there were 350. And in 2007 there is 277. That's what's happening to agriculture.

And my pitch is I love where I live, it's a -- you've heard it from others. I like living in a rural community, I like raising my own food. And I've said it at public meetings, if you don't think that what's happened to all those places where you people live isn't going to happen here, without really exerted planning, somebody's got to do some serious planning, set things aside.

I gotta go. Thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you very much.

Are you willing to answer a quick question?
MR. WILHEME: Sure, love to.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Both you, and was it Johanna and Betty over there, Betty Doty, you both mentioned that there is a tremendous amount of expertise in basically whether it's at a victory garden level, local gardening, the different clubs, cooking local grown foods and the preparation that comes with all that, that's a huge resource. And you've all mentioned that at one point or another.

Is it my understanding that if that could be galvanized, if we could figure out how to tap into that more, that would be one way to start spreading enough information and appreciation, especially within younger folks. I know I'm kind of putting some words out there, but I hear that in some of the comments you made. Is that what I'm hearing?

MR. WILHEME: It could be done, it could be done. What I have to say is that education, since I left in '86, has changed remarkably. The shop buildings which had things like welding, ag farms -- we have our own little ag farm, it's separate from the school now. But they made the assumption that every kid's going to go to college, and that just isn't true. And the question is why would they bother to do that anyway, because the jobs have all been sent overseas. The exporting of jobs is a major...
issue in all this discussion.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Craig made the comment, I believe, a little earlier, 20 percent of the agricultural workforce actually works in a field. This was a study done by the Department of Labor here in our own state. And 80 percent is the rest of the food chain, all the other components that make up our ability to get product up and out, including technicians, welders and crafters, all the rest of that. So there is an enormous need, and that's what we're talking about in our 2030 vision.

MR. WILHEME: Well, somebody on this committee or some committee should look into who's making up the State tests and who's -- those teachers are teaching to the test now. And like I said, I had to teach a second grade class about birds. I asked the new biology teachers at the school, where's my bird slides? They go, what are you talking about? I said, well, I left 150 bird slides up there and I'd like to use them. They said, no, we don't know anything about it. I said, don't you teach anything about birds? They go, no, there's nothing on the State test about birds. That's criminal.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you very much.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

Our final speaker, number 17.

MS. LOCKIE: We'll see how strong this is since
I'm very tall.

I apologize, I didn't come prepared today, but listening to everybody else's comments -- Missy Lockie with the Shasta County Farm Bureau and the Shasta District Fair. Since I didn't come prepared and with Board authorization, I'll have to speak simply on my own and not representing them. I have a board member here as well, but I'll have to shoot from the hip.

Education is a definite must have for the future of the young ladies that were here today. Their projection for 2030 is a very hard -- you know, they can't fathom that. I can relate. 20-something years ago I graduated from the same school. I could never have predicted today or that I would be here addressing you in this forum. I was the first president or female president of that school. It's very, very crucial that we have vocational funding for those classes. That school has a special teacher that leads the group, there are four teachers there. They have college prep classes attached to their curriculum. We need to have that shared from different schools throughout the whole state, not just there, because you can see the difference between that school and the one right next door.

Education for the public is extremely crucial.

We need to have them know where their food comes from.
And the "Buy California" has been wonderful, but we need to do a little more. We need to -- they need to know when they're buying a product from somewhere else. It needs to be labeled differently. And we all know that started at the national level, trying to trickle down this way, but when a piece of meat is broken and that label doesn't go on down the food chain, that's the problem.

At the fair, that is the major thing I've been hearing today, and this is something that we can work together, but we do need your help as well. The Farm Bureau hat sometimes collides with the fair hat, and it did, and now we have the farm. And people will have a chance to come in and see how butter is made, how a dairy goat is milked, how a cow is milked, what the hundred-plus byproducts of a beef cattle is. But we need more literature to hand out at those type of things. We need more help with fairs and expositions having funding for special competitions.

We have the largest junior livestock auction in this part of the state. Actually, Santa Rosa is probably our closest competitor in that size. Our gross was $898,000 last year. We have over 500 animals in ag mechanics projects that we sell. Last year we had approximately 30 mechanic projects come in. Because we want those kids to know that there are jobs in those
fields, that they can work on farms as a welder, they can
in graphic design, in industrial design. So we do sell
those there. And we hope those kids use those funds
wisely to go on to college, and many of them do.

We have seen a growth at our fair, and I'm not
extremely sure if it's because we're being urbanized or
getting more people to the area. We are watching our
school farms grow. And we help that. I sit on a lot of
the ag advisory groups and encourage them to have those
farms, find the donating funds to make them operate.

We've grown $450,000 in the last eight years, and
we are up 200 exhibitors just in our stock department. So
I would encourage you to not forget those places and that
we can tie them together, and we definitely need to do
that.

As far as the Farm Bureau hat, regulatory issues
is definitely the tightest thing we're facing there. The
Air Resources Board, the refitting of those diesel engines
will actually devastate agriculture. It will put us at a
disadvantage for moving our products. The thought of
moving cattle out of state, good luck. The thought of
those trucks actually being inspected coming in from out
of state is ridiculous. We will be competing at a totally
different level and it will be hindered. You might as
well tie two hands and a foot together. Not that we don't
want clean air, because we do, and we want to protect our -- the original stewards of the land, our farmers and agriculturalists. And that's exactly where we're at.

The other, to echo Mary, pesticide regulation, pest exclusion, border control, wildlife management, we need those programs. We need to make sure that we keep the -- the people that have moved here, they don't realize that the wildlife management program is very crucial to their safety. I know in southern California you're seeing a lot of problems with coyotes; it's not going to be long we'll be seeing that problem here.

So if you could keep those little projects in mind, I'd appreciate it. And I have 28 seconds to spare, so if there's anything I can help you with or any questions?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Missy, AB32 is of great concern to the Board and I know the Department, and the cost of that on agriculture, and that's a very difficult issue, and in the air basin, since we all live in, but we are aware and we are doing whatever we can do to mitigate that.

MS. LOCKIE: If there's just some way -- and I appreciate that you're very aware of the topic. The two central areas obviously need some more monitoring than, say, we do up here. When we have trucks that travel less
than 10,000 miles a year, we're hoping that maybe they can have some kind of different restrictions on them, you know, when they're just taking hay from point A to point B and they're not traveling very far, they're obviously not the major polluter in the world. Your big box trucks, those are a lot different than what we're dealing with.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Many of us have that same situation. We're doing all we can do. It's very difficult the way that law's written though.

MS. LOCKIE: It is.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: Thank you.

I want to thank the group, the public comments, for your kind attention to the time and the clock and our ground rules. You've been a very terrific group to work with today. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, I turn the meeting over to you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Thank you, Mike. And thank you for your leadership today. Mike, you didn't tell them, but I thought it would be good, what your affiliation is, because I do not think that most people are aware UC does what they do.

FACILITATOR LAWLESS: I'm here on behalf of UC Davis's Common Ground, which does facilitation and mediation for public issues; sometimes it's land use,
sometimes it's agriculture. I actually, like I said before, I'm a psychologist, I do public policy research around human services issues, but I take the opportunity to facilitate these meetings on their behalf.

And so if you need any further information on that, you might come see me. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: I'm going to open it up for any Board comments or questions. And also, if the audience has any question for any Board Member or the Secretary, we would welcome that.

So first of all, Ann Silva, please.

BOARD MEMBER BACCHETTI-SILVA: I'd like to make a comment that I know we're looking for solutions to problems, and one of the things we keep hearing over and over again with these speakers is how to keep young people in ag through education, through -- how can we do that?

And I did notice we heard from Mary Rickert and we heard from her son who has come back to the farm. They have a daughter, Eileen, who's gone to work for the California Milk Advisory Board, and she mentors young people, Dairy Princess Program and the interim program.

So my suggestion is maybe to send that family to Cal Poly and get them studied to figure out how they raised two kids and they both went into different forms of ag. Somebody like the Osbournes, where we could watch...
them every week and see how they were so successful in
what they've done.

So on behalf of the ag industry, thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Craig McNamara.

BOARD MEMBER McNAMARA: I just went through your
comments quickly here, and as we all know there's some
important themes here. Over half of you spoke about the
importance of organic and sustainable production. You
spoke almost -- almost everyone spoke about the importance
of small farms. I think Ms. Rougle's comments about
unleashing small farms resonated with all of us. Farmers'
markets came to play. The involvement of seniors and the
incredible resource that we have both in our senior
population and, as Ann has said, in our students. Health,
didn't that come through time and time again, the
importance of health, which then some of the other issues
about zoning, national security.

But thank you for your comments. These will be
taken, and as one speaker said, they will not go on the
shelf. I know each and every member of this Board is an
activist in their own community and their own farming
area, and we will make it happen. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: I think the one other, Craig,
that was mentioned was the regulatory process. I think
almost every speaker.
Don Bransford.

BOARD MEMBER BRANSFORD: I wanted to ask a question on the regulatory environment, because whether you are large or small or in between, from an ag standpoint or a farming standpoint, you all had concerns about the regulatory environment. And I guess the question I would have is is it an advantage to be regulated to the extent that we are in terms of, you know, there isn't another state or country in the world that's regulated like us, and can we take advantage of that in the marketing of our product? I'm not sure I agree with that, but I'm just curious to know, you know, if people use that as a marketing tool or have thought about using that as a marketing tool.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: That's asked generally to everyone. If anyone would like to comment on that.

Again, if anyone has any questions for us, anyone?

Margaret?

MS. WAGNER: I always wondered --

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Would you come to the microphone, please.

MS. WAGNER: I was always wondering why the farmer who has the greatest risk, has the weather to deal with, has all those things, he will take the smallest
share of his product, while the people who produce all the
food, the packaging all of this, they get a lot more, they
have no risk at all. If they don't get it from
California, they get it from Wisconsin. And so I'm not
sure how we can make sure that the farmer is assured a
certain or a decent price for his product.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: The age-old problem.

Mr. Secretary, were you going to take a run at
that one? You're the strawberry marketer by trade.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I'll just make an
observation. And people don't recognize this, that
although they're more than happy to eat our products or
clothe themselves with our products or even fill up a tank
with our products, it's that farming still is, as far as I
know, is an investment of your personal wealth, it's a
voluntary investment of your personal wealth and you hope
you get a return on that investment. There's only a
handful of people that are forced into farming. I think
Mr. Young Rickert over there might have been forced into
farming, but we don't know that.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Probably had a choice.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: But we talk about -- it's
very important when we talk about sustainability. One of
the definitions that comes out often, there's a
four-legged stool; there's an environmental component, a
social component, certainly the profitability, the economic, you have to be viable, you have to make a profit, otherwise it all crumbles. And the last component, instead of a three-legged stool, we're talking about a four-legged platform. The other fourth legged platform is the education, the ability to pass on information, learn new information, take technology as it comes. You build that platform and you establish then a sustainable future. And I know that's what we're all about right now, is understanding that you have to have all those components covered if we're going to have a successful future for ag. And I believe that down deep, I can see it happening and I can see it at the same time as we get a chance to meet with all of you, if you can imagine this going across the state, it's an exiting time, and I hope you stay focused.

I would say that on our website, agvision@CDFA.ca.gov, stay in touch, keep an eye on what's going on there, add your comments, ask your friends to add comments as you see fit. There's some great dialogues, great conversations that are taking place. Sometimes they don't get recorded here, but we'd sure love to see them come on in through the internet. That's a new way for us all to be communicating and educating each other.

I'd also like, at this point I'd really like to
thank all of you who have come today. Our great staff who helped put this together, Kelly, Jonnalee, Josh, Robert, who else is out here? Zack is here, Nancy is here, Kelly -- I said Kelly. Can you guys all stand up? And you helped put this all together. I wanted to say thank you to all of you.

And to this amazing Board that I get to work with, I want to thank all of you for your support, your belief and your willingness to step up and give us your input, your brains, your thoughts on where agriculture needs to go. Together that's what this is, the converging of resources, converging ideas towards a vision that we hope very clearly is not all talk, as someone mentioned back there, it's not about all talk, it really needs to be about action and making things happen.

So unless there's other questions or thoughts, anything else? Any last minute points?

PRESIDENT MONTNA: I think, Mr. Secretary, we should mention Michael Smith.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: And there's two points right here.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: We should mention Michael Smith, our intern over there. I want to make sure all my crop files are very good, Michael. So did you get the last billing on that?
SECRETARY KAWAMURA: We also have our scripter here. What's it called? Our recorder, our transcripter, Mr. -- oh, I forgot his name -- Richard, thank you. I just have two questions.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Maybe one more, one or two questions. We'll take two more questions and then --

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Johanna and then --

MS. TRENERRY: Yes, I just want to ask --

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Johanna, will you come to the microphone, please, because we'd like to get your comments recorded. And then the gentleman in the back.

MS. TRENERRY: When you go into Agvision, are you going to put on there any laws that are going to affect ag like this AB32 you were talking about or 35? Is that possible for you, to put it in layman's language so that we can call our council or senators and assembly people to let them know how we feel about it? Is that possible to do that through the Agvision?

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: I would mention there should be, should be, and I would have to double check, links on our website to go into AB32, some of the different issue areas that face agriculture, and you should be able to get an update on that. If, and I might be wrong, if it's not there, I do know on a farm bureau site, for example, the California Farm Bureau Federation has great access on
their website to those kind of backgrounders as well.

MS. TRENERRY: Okay. All I want to know though, will it be in layman terms or will it be in lawyer terms? Because you read some of those things and you think what are they trying to tell me?

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: We'll try to get it into plain speak if we can.

MS. TRENERRY: Please, thank you.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Other questions?

MR. KESSLER: I wanted to ask the Board if they have any specific plans to put all of these comments into the public domain, or how are you going to communicate this? Because I'd like to -- if you have any specific plans for that.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: This is Josh Eddy, he's our coordinator administrator for the State Board of Agriculture.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDY: Thank you. Yes, we're putting -- the transcripts that have been made today will be available on the website as well as all the other sessions that we do have, and we will be developing a library of all public comments that have been submitted via email.

MR. KESSLER: And that's it?

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDDY: That will be available online, and in addition to the final report that is generated for review.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: We intend to have this out by October.

MR. KESSLER: Okay.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: The Governor has requested it through the Secretary by October. And that's what we intend to do.

MR. KESSLER: Then there's nothing beyond that of just producing a report and --

BOARD MEMBER ROSS: No. If I could weigh in on that. We've been talking about doing something like this for more than a year, and it needs to have action plans with timelines. And the staff at CDFA is very committed to making sure that this is something that is actionable and that it goes beyond administrations, that this is about what's right for agriculture in the State of California and our consumers, so that there will be an opportunity to check our progress against those types of timelines.

MR. KESSLER: Okay. So you're going to take the comments and then put them into an action plan with timelines, and then -- okay, that's measurable, to figure out what we're going to be doing.
I have also an answer for the question that was asked, but I will let Wolfgang do that.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Wolfgang, you'll be our last speaker.

MS. ROUGLE: Well, thanks for letting me shoehorn myself in.

I wanted to say to you, Johanna, where I find a really great resource for layman's terms, interpretations of bills that will affect small farmers here in California, is CAFF, Community Alliance with Family Farms, which just -- you already know about them maybe?

MS. TRENERRY: I've heard of that.

MS. ROUGLE: Yeah, they're at www.caff.org. And they're really the only voice for small farms that's not commodity specific in Sacramento. And some of the Board Members have never checked out the great vision papers that CAFF has. I'd really recommend that.

And then I wanted to speak, Mr. Bransford, I think, to your regulatory question. You know, when I was growing up, there were some families that prided themselves on having a lot of order and strictness in their family, and they just had a lot of rules. And I don't know that they really turned out better, more responsible kids than the families that didn't have so many rules and just focused on the rules that will

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really -- the families that chose rules by the effect that
they'll eventually have. And I think the best regulations
are the ones where the regulators have considered years
and years down the road what kind of society will this
lead to. There are some regulations I'm a huge fan of,
and we can discuss those later, but regulation for
regulation's sake I think is not helpful.

SECRETARY KAWAMURA: Thank you.

One last thing I would like to say, I don't think
we have anything else, would Paul Kjos -- Paul, are you
here, still? Paul's a deputy commissioner from Shasta
County here and really helped also put this whole thing
together, to allow us to have a great site where we can
have a great listening session.

So, Paul, thanks to you and your staff. And tell
Mary, I know she's on her way to Chicago, I think, so tell
her thank you very much, and to the supervisors as well,
we really appreciate this opportunity to be here in
Redding. Thanks so much.

PRESIDENT MONTNA: Again, thank you all for your
attention. We appreciate stakeholders and the public
being here to share their concerns with the Board. Please
get on the website, stay tracked, we're traveling through
July. You're more than welcome to come to more than one.

And thank you again.
Is there any objection to adjournment?

Hearing none, we stand adjourned. Thank you.

(Thereupon, the May 28, 2008, California Department of Food and Agriculture California Farm Bill Listening Session was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, RICHARD FRIANT, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing California Department of Food and Agriculture California Farm Bill Listening Session; that thereafter the recording was transcribed.

I further certify that I am not counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said Listening Session, or in any way interested in the outcome of said Listening Session.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of June, 2008.

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