



Craig McNamara  
Board President  
Owner, Sierra Orchards

April 1, 2011

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The Honorable Karen Ross  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Room 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Ross:

On behalf of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, I am pleased to bring your attention to recently introduced legislation (AB 6 and AB 152) which directly address some of the key priorities contained within the "California Agricultural Vision: Strategies for Sustainability" report.

Assembly Bill 6 would eliminate significant hurdles for eligible individuals to access social services statewide. In particular, the legislation would remove statutory provisions related to compliance with the fingerprint imaging system requirements for the CalFresh program and other social services programs for needy families. This improvement to the CalFresh program will assist California in accessing the estimated \$3 billion in federal food stamp assistance that eligible Californians are currently not receiving. The state board requests your active support for Assembly Bill 6.

Assembly Bill 152 is also an important step forward in improving access to safe and healthy foods for all Californians. The proposed legislation introduces a tax credit for individuals that donate agricultural products to California food banks. This incentive helps to offset a portion of the costs to produce and harvest agricultural products for charitable donations. The board supports the broad based concept of this bill and encourages your support on this and similar initiatives.

The state board continues to be encouraged by the collaboration among our farmers, ranchers and stakeholder community concerning the Ag Vision process. This is just one example of the progress that is occurring. We look forward to continuing our work with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Craig McNamara  
President

cc: The Honorable Jerry Brown



