June 19, 2018

The Honorable Bill Monning
Senator Majority Leader
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 623

Dear Senator Monning:

Access to safe and affordable drinking water is right for all Californians. On behalf of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture I am writing in support of your efforts as outlined in SB 623 to establish a Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund that not only establishes an affordable drinking water fee on public users but also establishes a fee on fertilizing materials, dairies and other confined animal operations.

As of May 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board reports that 269 public water systems are ‘Out of Compliance’ meaning that the public water system is in violation of one or more federal/state primary drinking water standard. Contaminants not only include nitrates, but also arsenic, perchlorates and radionuclides. The state’s farmers and ranchers have done significant work over the last decades to reduce nitrate use and have adopted implementation measures to mitigate contamination. This Board believes that SB 623 allows for a collaborative approach to a safe and affordable drinking water solution.

We greatly appreciated your leadership in addressing this key issue for California. It is unacceptable that a percentage of individuals living in the 5th largest economy in the world do not have access to safe and affordable drinking water.

Sincerely,

Don J. Cameron
President

cc: Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture