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Owner, Montna Farms

August 31, 2010

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The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

California's fair share of federal food nutritional assistance funding is not being realized. California, with the largest population in United States, ranks next to last in the nation for utilization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). With this program alone, nutritional organizations estimate, California is bypassing an estimated \$4 billion in federal funding to the state. Funding that would support overall economic activity and jobs.

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture respectively recommends that your administration convene a panel of state agency heads and private sector stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness and deficiencies in the statewide implementation of federal food assistance programs. The State of California implements 18 federal food assistance programs through a variety of state agencies and a comprehensive review is needed to improve efficiency, eliminate waste and maximize California's allocation of federal funding.

This recommendation is supported by the agricultural community, nutritional organizations and various stakeholders who believe that better food access is needed for California families in need. As the most agriculturally abundant state in the nation, it is a tragedy that access to food remains a challenge to many individuals within this state.

The state board is committed to assist you in this process by bringing California's agricultural community together, with food bank representatives, to double the contribution of food to assistance organizations in 2011. We stand ready to assist in improving the implementation and effectiveness of state administered federal food nutritional assistance programs.

Sincerely,

Alfred G. Montna
President

