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August 31, 2010

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

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The inability of the federal government to address comprehensive immigration reform continues to impact California's economy and our agricultural infrastructure. The California State Board of Food and Agriculture respectfully requests that your administration take proactive steps at the national level to encourage dialogue and action on this vital issue. A significant step forward would be the re-introduction and passage of the federal 'Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act of 2009' (AgJOBS).

California's farmers and ranchers contribute significantly to the economic prosperity of California and the nation. Our state's leadership in encouraging federal action on immigration reform will weigh heavily on the national dialogue. Without meaningful legislation toward comprehensive immigration reform, California's economic challenges will continue.

California's agricultural community is strongly in support of your advocacy on this issue. The state board stands ready to assist in any way you deem appropriate. By neglecting the opportunity to address comprehensive immigration reform, the federal government is placing California in a position to assume a leadership role. Whether this leadership is by direct action within state policy or advocacy at the federal level, California's leadership is needed.

Sincerely,

Alfred G. Montna  
President

