



Dear Secretary of Agriculture and the State Board of Agriculture:

I come before you as a dedicated Education & Research staff member with the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (<http://casfs.ucsc.edu>) at UC Santa Cruz, a statewide representative for the California Student Sustainability Coalition's Foods Initiative (www.sustainabilitycoalition.org), and most importantly a concerned citizen regarding the future of our food system.

There is a clear necessity to be candid and open in facing the contemporary challenges of our agrifood system. Furthermore this is necessary in the process of fostering a vision of what is to come, in the next 20 years, and well beyond. At present our agrifood system faces a complex set of hurdles to address and overcome in its design and operations. Despite advances in science, technology, and social possibilities, the severity of impact has often increased rather than decreased. We are facing an inflation of hunger and limited access to nourishing food in our communities, more resources are depleted than renewed, greater amounts of toxins enter the food chain, energy and fuel systems are stressed, and food-related health problems intensify. Never before have such conditions combined to create the degree of social and environmental challenges that face the food system today. I am grateful that CDFA is taking the time to seek input and establish a process to create a big-picture conceptual framework for understanding the underlying structures that drive unsustainability and, more so, the will to identify changes required for the active transformation of California's agrifood systems for the well-being of generations to come.

However, this crisis in our agrifood system has brought about an unprecedented set of efforts to create positive change. All around the state and country individuals, organizations, and social movements are working to improve ecological and social conditions, creating new modes of production, distribution, and consumption. Never before has there been such an explosion of public interest in and discourse about food issues, food consumption, and farming practices. The demand for fundamental agrifood system reform is growing along side, increases in "green" production and consumption, including in the organic foods sector. Therefore, CDFA should engage this demand and work to build and strengthen efforts for fundamental change in the agrifood system as outlined in Roots Of Change goals (i.e. S.H.A.R.E.E.) shared at previous listening sessions...this is a "must have."

My vision for California Agriculture in 2030 is an agrifood system that nourishes people, communities, and the earth through ecologically responsible and socially just processes. Challenges to this vision include:

- Balancing divergent market forces and social values, such as increases in production costs, the need to provide a fair price to producers, and growing demands for healthy, fresh food at accessible and affordable prices.
- Education and job training to meet the demands of a more sustainable and adaptable agrifood system
- Raising consumer awareness among the California public for supporting and participating in a new vision of California agriculture

- Developing a new statewide infrastructure to emphasize regionally based food systems that do not serve as moats to the business environment, rather, reflect a system of priorities where regional/local production—consumption is first followed by concentric circles of trade extending domestically and internationally

In 2030 I envision a public that is more knowledgeable of the interconnections and intersections of food production, distribution, and consumption with broader issues regarding the environment and society. Furthermore as a citizen who works with youth across the state, both in an advisory capacity and as a peer, there is a definite will to work together to create the change I've just described. At present, we are working with the UC Office of the President on a system-wide Sustainable Food Service Policy that we hope to engage the CSU & CCC system with following its successful implementation in the coming years. In addition, I am involved with various education initiatives in higher education that are cultivating new co-curricular learning models, curriculum, and participatory action research that is being done by the increased demand from students for such opportunities. I am convinced we are at a "tipping point" and I hope that CDFFA takes this incredible opportunity to work in collaboration with stakeholders across the state to foster fundamental change in our agrifood system.

Thanks you for your time,

Tim Galarneau

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