



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
Ambassador  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Perdue and Ambassador Lighthizer:

As the nation's largest agricultural producer and exporter, California's farmers and ranchers are an important constituency for the promotion and expansion of free and fair trade for the United States. Our unique agricultural diversity, representing more than 400 different agricultural products, makes market access issues along with sanitary and phytosanitary measures key priorities for our growers and manufacturers.

In working collaboratively with the Administration to enhance and expand our global trade ties, California's agricultural community would like to extend an invitation to you, or an appropriate designee, to visit our state and meet with our agricultural representatives. This trip will allow the opportunity to visit farming operations as well as discuss trade priorities with California's agricultural trade stakeholders – representing more than 30 agricultural boards, commissions, marketing orders, cooperatives and associations.

We look forward to working with you in expanding the nation's agricultural trade outlook while also protecting our farmers, ranchers and farmworkers from unfair and non-reciprocal trade relationships.

We, the undersigned, are hopeful for the opportunity to share our outlook and priorities for the nation's trade agenda with you in the coming months. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) can serve as your point of contact and will work with the stakeholder community to ensure a robust and engaging visit. Please contact Carol Tate, CDFA at (916) 654-0433 or [carol.tate@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:carol.tate@cdfa.ca.gov) for coordination.

Sincerely,

Karen Ross, Secretary  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

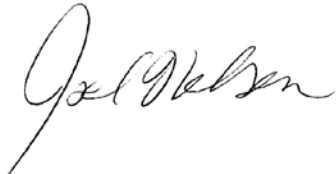




Donn Zea, Executive Director  
California Dried Plum Board



Michelle Connelly, Executive Director/CEO  
California Walnut Board & Commission



Joel Nelson, President  
California Citrus Mutual



Richard Matoian, Executive Director  
American Pistachio Growers



Richard Waycott, President/CEO  
Almond Board of California



Paul Buttner, Manager of Environmental Affairs  
California Rice Commission



Melissa Poole, Senior Counsel  
Director of Governmental Affairs  
Wonderful Orchards



Bill Mattos, President  
California Poultry Federation



Jim R. Cranney, Jr., President  
California Citrus Quality Council



Paul Wenger, President  
California Farm Bureau Federation



Robert Koch, President/CEO  
Wine Institute



Mark Jansen, President/CEO  
Blue Diamond Growers



John Talbot, CEO  
California Milk Advisory Board



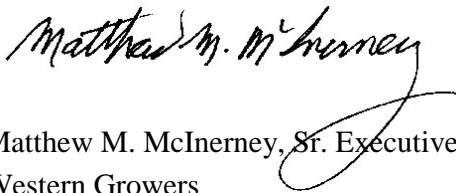
Frederick W. Klose, Executive Director  
California Agricultural Export Council



Marcy Martin, Director/Trade  
California Fresh Fruit Association



Rayne Thompson, VP Government Relations  
Sunkist and Fruit Growers Supply



Matthew M. McInerney, Sr. Executive VP  
Western Growers



Kathleen Nave, President  
California Table Grape Commission



Debbie Powell, President/General Manager  
California Raisin Marketing Board