



May 14, 2009

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The undersigned member organizations of the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment (CRAE) urge your support for the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunities and Benefits Act (AgJOBS). CRAE is an alliance of agricultural, environmental, regulatory, and social justice leaders seeking to promote an agriculture and food sector that is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible.

The objective of AgJOBS is to provide an adequate legal supply of labor for agriculture in California and throughout the United States. AgJOBS will encourage an economically viable food and agriculture system principally by ensuring that specialty crop commodities that cannot be machine cultivated and harvested can continue to be grown in California and elsewhere in the United States. As a result of a shortage of domestic agricultural labor, there is a significant movement of agricultural production to Mexico, negatively impacting not only the agriculture sector, but allied industries such as transportation and farm supply as well.

AgJOBS will also help create a socially responsible food and agriculture system in California by promoting equity and social justice among populations of farm employees

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CRAE is a broad coalition of agriculture, environment, labor and public agency leaders working to promote an agriculture that is economically viable, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible.

who are socially and economically marginalized by their lack of legal status to live and work in the United States. AgJOBS also addresses the need for workers to fill year-round jobs in California and elsewhere in the United States. Agricultural workers play a critical part in the production of the agricultural bounty of the United States and California, and yet have been denied an equitable opportunity to live and work in the United States and California by illogical and dysfunctional immigration laws and regulations.

We urge you to do all you can to support passage of AgJOBS.

Thank you,

Ag Council of California  
American Farmland Trust  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Certified Organic Farmers  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Federation of Certified Farmers' Markets  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Working Group  
Farmworker Institute for Education & Leadership Development  
Markon Cooperative  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Richard Rominger, Rominger Farms  
Roots of Change  
San Joaquin Resource Conservation District  
Western Growers  
Western United Dairywomen

cc. The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California

cci. The Honorable A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

ccii. John C. Duncan, Director, California Department of Industrial Relations