



Tuesday, March 15, 2011

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Steinberg:

The undersigned members of the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment (CRAE) offer our enthusiastic support for the appointment of Karen Ross to the post of Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. 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.

For many years, the members of CRAE have had the opportunity to collaborate with Secretary Ross on a wide range of efforts to secure the long-term viability of California agriculture and ensure healthy local ecosystems and communities. As a former steering committee member of CRAE, Secretary Ross was a strong and creative leader, always serving to bridge the wide range of interests in the room and identify strategic and effective solutions to the issues addressed by our coalition. Her ability to bring together actors within agriculture and the broader food system is exceptional. While at the California Association of Winegrape Growers, Secretary Ross became a role model in advancing agricultural sustainability and demonstrated great foresight. Furthermore, her recent experience in the office of USDA Secretary Vilsack gives her a broader perspective of national issues and gives her added insight into working to better meet California's needs.

We look forward to collaborating with Secretary Ross to support a strong, economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural sector in California.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Council of California
American Farmland Trust
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Cattlemen's Association
California Climate and Agriculture Network
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Rice Commission
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Corny Gallagher, Agribusiness Executive, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

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.

Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Working Group
Holly King, King-Gardiner Farms, LCC
Markon Cooperative
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
Rich Rominger, Rominger Brothers Farms
Roots of Change
San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Western Growers
Western United Dairymen

Cc. The Honorable Karen Ross, Secretary of CDFA
The Honorable Tom Harman Senate Rules Committee, Appointments
The Honorable Elaine Alquist, Senate Rules Committee, Appointments
The Honorable Kevin De Leon, Senate Rules Committee, Appointments
The Honorable Jean Fuller, Senate Rules Committee, Appointments
Juan Carlos Torres, Deputy Director, Appointments
Bill Bailey, Senior Rules Consultant
Nettie Sabelhaus, Senior Advisor to the Governor
