



## WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES IN CALIFORNIA

As members of the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment (CRAE), we urge Congress to maintain funding for, and improve delivery of, key programs that facilitate innovation and collaboration to address economic and environmental challenges related to agricultural production and conservation on California's working lands.

### OUR SHARED PRIORITIES

#### Maintain Conservation & Research Funding

Maintaining funding for Conservation programs like EQIP, RCPP, ACEP, and CIG, and for the Research Title is critical to ensuring that our most productive lands are maintained in agriculture and that farmers can address critical economic and environmental challenges.

#### Streamline Program Access

Farmers are not able to access beneficial programs due to a number of administrative challenges. Streamlining grant and cost-share programs will ensure that more farmers can access Farm Bill program funding.

#### Support Bio-Based Products

Increasing support for innovation and research in bio-based products and biofuel research and industry is a shared priority for California's forests and farms that would create rural economic benefits and reduce risk of forest fires through fuel reduction.

#### Fund Nutrition Programs

Maintaining funding for SNAP and School Lunch programs benefits not only children, but the farmers who are contracted to support them. Using these programs to encourage local purchasing has multiplier effects throughout rural communities.

*Since 2005, CRAE has been a leading forum for California's agricultural and environmental leaders to resolve conflict, find common ground, and work together to support agriculture and improve environmental outcomes.*

## CRAE Recommendations by Title

---

<b>Title II Conservation</b>	<b>Maintain or increase funding for the Conservation Title, and make improvements to priority programs.</b> The highest priority programs for California include: Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG).  <b>Potential improvements to priority programs include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise AGI limit for participation in conservation programs</li><li>• Allow greater flexibility to implement innovative solutions to local and regional resource challenges--such as seasonal habitat for migratory species, environmental flows, drought resilience, and sustainable groundwater management.</li><li>• Streamlined application processes for all programs.</li></ul>
<b>Title III Trade</b>	<b>Maintain support for trade-enhancement efforts, to develop international markets for domestic agricultural products.</b>
<b>Title IV Nutrition</b>	<b>Maintain support for SNAP and school lunches. Ensure that fruit and vegetable programs are maintained, as they are an important part of a healthy diet.</b>
<b>Title VI Rural Development</b>	<b>Improve definition of “rural” so that truly rural areas of California can qualify for funds.</b>
<b>Title VII Research, Extension</b>	<b>Maintain funding to land grant universities for both basic and applied research and extension.</b>
<b>Title VIII Forestry</b>	<b>We support forest conservation and development of products and markets for value-added forestry to enhance rural economies, restore forest health, and reduce risk of catastrophic fire.</b>
<b>Title IX Energy</b>	<b>We support research to create breakthrough biobased energy products and technologies, to enhance rural economies, facilitate waste reduction, and offset costs of forest health restoration and hazardous fuel removal.</b>
<b>Title X Horticulture</b>	<b>Maintain funding for Specialty Crop Block Grants to states to support innovative conservation practices and other aspects of specialty crop production.</b>
<b>Title XI Crop Insurance</b>	<b>Improve availability of crop insurance for specialty crops.</b>

---

### The Undersigned Members of the California Roundtable on Agriculture & the Environment

*American Farmland Trust*    *Markon Cooperative*  
*Audubon California*    *Pablo Garza, CA Political Director,*  
*CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts*    *Environmental Defense Fund*  
*CA Farm Bureau Federation*    *Rominger Brothers Farms*  
*CA Fresh Fruit Association*    *San Joaquin Resource Conservation District*  
*Douglas McGehee*    *Sustainable Conservation*  
*Gabriele Ludwig, Almond Alliance*    *Triple Crown Holdings, LP*  
*Martin Family Ranch*    *The Nature Conservancy*