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September 13, 2016

Honorable Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Ste. 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: VETO – Assembly Bill 1066 (Gonzalez) – Ag Overtime Bill

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors we are writing to strongly oppose AB 1066 (Gonzalez), which would result in the repeal of the current overtime-pay rules for farm employees.

Farmers and their employees have very real concerns that working hours will be reduced if AB 1066 becomes law. This unnecessary overregulation will only hinder the state's economy and ultimately reduce opportunities for Californians to find work and support their families.

California is one of only five states that requires premium pay for overtime worked by farm employees. Similarly, our regulation is one of the most generous in its coverage and requires overtime pay (one and a half times the regular rate) for hours worked over 10 in a workday, for the first eight hours on the seventh consecutive day, and two times the regular rate for any hours beyond eight hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek.

California is the most dynamic agricultural region in the world. The food grown here is highly perishable and subject to the conditions that Mother Nature provides. Flexibility in work schedules for our farmers and employees allows both parties to benefit.

Now is the time for our state leaders to advance policies that create jobs, not find ways to punish those who are boosting our state's number one industry. AB 1066 will not improve the lives of hard-working Californians. For these reasons, **our Board opposes AB 1066 and requests your veto.**

Sincerely,

Fresno County Board of Supervisors

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Vice Chairman Brian Pacheco, District 1

Supervisor Deborah A. Poochigian, District 5

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