



Craig McNamara
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Owner, Sierra Orchards

January 13, 2016

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Joy Sterling, CEO
Iron Horse Vineyards

Dr. Nicholas B. Dirks
Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley
200 California Hall #1500
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Chancellor Dirks:

In the great tradition of student advocacy and representational movements, the issue of Gill Tract Farm has come before the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. We feel that this issue, brought to the Board by three student representatives from University of California, Davis importantly captures the sentiment of millennials concerned about local food systems and food sovereignty.

In regards to Gill Tract Farm, as discussions on campus and within the local community continue, we encourage ongoing collaboration and engagement by college administrators and officials. Dean Keith Gilles has done commendable work in continuing agricultural research on the farm and we know that this commitment will continue. The student's interest in expanding urban agriculture on adjacent land is indicative of millennial interest in the food system.

The University of California, Berkeley is renowned for being California's first land grant university, making agricultural education and research widely available. In addition, the Berkeley Food Institute is a critical medium focusing on programs and initiatives related to food and agricultural systems. The Gill Tract Farm is part of this great history and ongoing legacy.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

Craig McNamara
President

