



Craig McNamara
Board President
Owner, Sierra Orchards

June 8, 2017

Joshua Eddy
Executive Director

Ashley Boren
Executive Director,
Sustainable Conservation

Donald Bransford, Owner
Bransford Farms

Don Cameron,
General Manager,
Terranova Ranch, Inc.

Nancy Casady
General Manager
Ocean Beach People's
Organic Food Co-Op

Helene Dillard, Dean
College of Agricultural
and Environmental
Sciences at the
University of California,
Davis

Bennet Drake, President
Drake Enterprises

Michael Gallo, Co-owner
Joseph Gallo Farms

Eric Holst,
Senior Director,
Environmental Defense
Fund

Bryce Lundberg,
Vice President,
Lundberg Family Farms

Martha Montoya,
President,
Los Kitos Produce

Joy Sterling, CEO
Iron Horse Vineyards

The Honorable Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, I want to thank you for your support of career technical education (CTE), specifically within the agriculture and natural resources industry sector. CTE funding is important for programs like the FFA and 4-H that engage K-12 students in hands-on experiences and leadership skills development that prepares them for the innovation and technological advancements necessary for a thriving food and farming sector.

On behalf of your State Board of Food and Agriculture, I applaud your commitment to ongoing funding for these programs directed through the California Department of Education and respectfully recommend that CTE funding remain a priority within the state budget. As the nation's largest agricultural producer, we have much to gain by investing in the future of students who will help lead our industry at a critical time of securing food and water security while demonstrating conservation and stewardship practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

CTE is a critical resource for California's rural and urban communities – connecting those interested in agricultural careers with the training and leadership skills that help them to succeed.

Sincerely,

Craig McNamara
President

cc: Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture

