

**Agricultural Council of California  
American Farmland Trust  
Bank of America  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Association of Wine Grape Growers  
California Coalition for Food and Farms  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Defenders of Wildlife  
San Joaquin Resource Conservation District  
Sustainable Conservation  
The Nature Conservancy  
Marrone Organic Innovations, Inc  
Rominger Brothers Farms**

September 24, 2007

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi  
450 Golden Gate Ave., 14th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Madame Speaker,

We would like to extend our appreciation for your personal attention and leadership role in helping to shape and pass a new House farm bill. We believe the House proposal makes considerable progress in establishing balance in United States farm and food policy.

The House bill maintains the strength of American agriculture, while increasing funding for the environment, hunger and the nation's overall health. Of special note, for the first time, it acknowledges the critical contributions of the specialty crop industry towards U.S. food security, improved public health and economic competitiveness. The result is a bill that is clearly a step forward for California.

There are some areas where we'd like to see continued improvement. For example, we would like to see more funding in the research title for specialty crops, and funding in the conservation title for the Conservation Security Program. In addition, all of the easement programs--the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, the Grasslands Reserve Program, and the Wetlands Reserve Program--are oversubscribed today, with many farmers being turned away for lack of funding. We will seek increased funding for these items in the Senate. These desired changes notwithstanding, the House bill is a significant achievement.

We are proud of the contribution that members of the California delegation made towards shaping an improved bill, and are eager to see the gains they helped achieve defended when

the bill moves to conference committee. Accordingly, we would like to urge you to make sure that the conference committee includes members who represent the best interests of our country's largest agricultural state.

Respectfully,

**Agricultural Council of California**, Donald Gordon Jr., President

**American Farmland Trust**, Edward Thompson Jr., California Director

**Bank of America**, Corny Gallagher, Agribusiness Executive

**Community Alliance with Family Farmers**, Dave Runsten, Executive Director

**California Association of Wine Grape Growers**, Karen Ross, President

**California Coalition for Food and Farming**, Kari Hamerschlag

**California Farm Bureau Federation**, Noelle Cremers, Director, Natural Resources & Commodities, Government Affairs Division

**California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation**, Martha Guzman, Legislative Advocate

**Community Alliance with Family Farmers**, Dave Runsten, Executive Director

**Defenders of Wildlife**, Kim Delfino, California Program Director

**Marrone Organic Innovations, Inc**, Pam Marrone, CEO/Founder

**Rominger Brothers Farms**, Rich Rominger

**San Joaquin Resource Conservation District**, Molly Watkins, Vice President

**Sustainable Conservation**, Ladi Asgill, Agricultural Economist

**The Nature Conservancy**, Mark Kramer, The Nature Conservancy, California Associate Director