

August 15, 2006

Robert C. Dynes, President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Dear President Dynes:

The California Roundtable on Agriculture & the Environment (CRAE) is keenly interested in providing input into the selection process for the hiring of a new Vice President for Agriculture & Natural Resources.

CRAE is a diverse coalition of agricultural and environmental organizations (see attached) that is striving to find consensus on key issues affecting agricultural sustainability. Over the past two years, we've focused on a number of important topics including Farm Bill Conservation Title priorities, exotic pest eradication funding, environmental certification, UC funding, agricultural research and cooperative extension.

The University of California provides a critical leadership role in advancing agricultural sustainability through instruction, research and extension. For this reason we strongly believe the new Vice President must effectively assert that leadership in addressing the many challenges and opportunities associated with Agriculture & Natural Resources.

Therefore, as stakeholders, we respectfully request that we be incorporated into the hiring process in an appropriate capacity. In order to facilitate the distribution of your comments, please communicate with:

Don Gordon, President
Agricultural Council of California
1225 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-1910
(916) 443-4887/gordon@agcouncil.org

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Don Gordon, President
Agricultural Council of California

Karen Ross, President
California Association of Winegrape
Growers

Kim Delfino, California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Jonathan Kaplan
Director, Sustainable Agriculture Project
Natural Resources Defense Council

Ed Thompson, State Director
American Farmland Trust

Richard Rominger
Farmer

Matt Byrne, Executive Vice President
California Cattlemen's Association

George Gomes, Administrator
California Farm Bureau Federation

Martha Guzman, Legislative Advocate
California Rural Legal Assistance

David Runsten, Executive Director
Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Kathryn Phillips, Manager
California Clean Air for Life Campaign
Environmental Defense

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

Peggy McNutt
Director, Central Coast Ecoregion
The Nature Conservancy

Molly Watkins, Vice President
San Joaquin Resource Conservation District

Hank Giclas, Vice President
Science & Technology, Strategic Planning
Western Growers Association

Paul Martin, Environmental Services
Director
Western United Dairymen

c. Reg Gomes, Vice President, ANR