

August 15, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
President Pro Tempore, State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 215
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The Need for a Statewide Agricultural Vanpool Program to Support Agricultural Workers

Dear Pro Tem de León and Speaker Rendon,

Much of California's success as the 6th largest economy in the world can be attributed to its booming agricultural economy. The state boasts a vibrant agriculture, offering over 400 commodities that generated \$47 billion in economic output in 2015. California also sources over one-third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of its fruits and nuts. None of this would be possible without California's hard-working agricultural laborers, who work long hours and in extreme weather conditions to get the job done.

These same agricultural workers live in extreme poverty, and in disadvantaged communities, where they are forced to bear a disproportionate share of California's economic, health, and environmental burdens. Due to this economic hardship, they often lack safe, reliable, and clean transportation options. This creates challenges for them to get work, as California's agricultural sites are located in remote areas that are hard to access if you do not own a vehicle.

At the local level, there are several public transit agencies providing vanpooling services to the state's agricultural laborers. This has been an invaluable, multi-benefit service. Vanpooling eases economic hardship for these workers by giving them a reliable means to get to work every day. It enables workers to follow the crops throughout the seasons across the state, giving them access to more year-round work, rather than limiting them to work just one season.

Despite the progress these groups have made in servicing our agricultural workers, there remains a larger, unmet need for vanpool services across the state. Groups currently operating agricultural vanpool services lack the funding needed to not only retire and replace existing vans when they are at the end of their useful life, but to purchase additional vans to service the growing demand for more vanpools.

Vanpooling services have the added benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through reduced vehicle miles traveled, as well as reducing the number of unlicensed and uninsured drivers on the roadway while minimizing the wear and tear on the state's streets and highways. Workers are the backbone of California's agricultural economy. They have the right to safe and reliable transportation to their jobs; vanpools provide an essential service to agricultural

laborers. For these reasons, we respectfully request the creation of a statewide agricultural vanpool grant program that would enable entities to compete for funds to purchase and maintain agricultural vanpools, along with a \$6M allocation of Cap-and-Trade revenues to this program for fiscal year 2017-18.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fresh Harvest

Organization

Juan Hernández

Name/Signature

Valley Pride Inc.

Organization

Valerie Pacheco

Name/Signature

JGM Packing, Inc.

Organization

Patricia Rodriguez

Name/Signature

Hilltown Packing Co.

Organization

Alex Ortiz

Name/Signature

Double Lucky Inc.

Organization

Al Ch

Name/Signature

Lucky Ag

Organization

Al Ch

Name/Signature

M.B LABOR INC.

Organization

Mike Buckley

Name/Signature

TLC Custom Farming Co.

Organization

Ryan DeJong

Name/Signature

Premium Packing Inc

Organization

Jamara Aldrete

Name/Signature

Elkhorn Packing Co LLC

Organization

Mary Bennett

Name/Signature

Rio Farms LLC
Organization

Danny Pereira / [Signature]
Name/Signature

SARE, Inc
Organization

CHRISTINA SHALLANBERGER
[Signature]
Name/Signature

Pacific Personnel, Inc
Organization

Robert L Gonzalez [Signature]
Name/Signature

CONSTAL Farm Labor Services INC
Organization

[Signature]
Name/Signature Ricardo Romero CEO

Organization

Name/Signature

Rio Farms, LLC
Organization

Margarita Martinez
[Signature]
Name/Signature

Pacific Personnel, Inc
Organization

Robert L Gonzalez [Signature]
Name/Signature

Southland Sod Farms, Inc
Organization

Richard Montiel / [Signature]
Name/Signature

Buena Ventura Ranch LLC
Organization

Marilyn Ramirez [Signature]
Name/Signature

Crisalida Berry Farms LLC
Organization

Marilyn Ramirez [Signature]
Name/Signature

Sierra Berry Farms LLC
Organization

Marilyn Ramirez [Signature]
Name/Signature

Organization

Name/Signature

Sand S Harvesting Co.

Organization

Susana Torres

Name/Signature

ALFAK LABOR

Organization

Janeth Martha Chaudes

Name/Signature

Safety Harvesting

Organization

Marielena Garibaldi

Name/Signature

Fresh Harvest, Inc.

Organization

Cindy De Silva

Name/Signature

Jett Harvest

Organization

Jose Lopez JR

Name/Signature

Foothill Packing, Inc.

Organization

Shacy Lilloo

Name/Signature

Prime Ag Services

Organization

Jose Lopez SR

Name/Signature

Four Seasons Produce

Organization

Reynolds Urquiza

Name/Signature

Sunrise Packing, Inc.

Organization

Tom Ouel

Name/Signature

Organization

Name/Signature

Elioco Produce

Organization

Jim Barza

Name/Signature

DAT Packing LLC

Organization

Milgammari

Name/Signature

RAMO Enterprises LP.

Organization

Jala O.A.

Name/Signature

A. Osegueta Co., Inc.

Organization

Hilda Garibay

Name/Signature

California Legislature

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub 3
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The Need for a Statewide Agricultural Vanpool Program to Support Agricultural Workers

Dear Chair Ting and Chair Bloom,

Much of California's success as the 6th largest economy in the world can be attributed to its booming agricultural economy. The state boasts a vibrant agriculture, offering over 400 commodities that generated \$47 billion in economic output in 2015. California also sources over one-third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of its fruits and nuts. None of this would be possible without California's hard-working agricultural laborers, who work long hours and in extreme weather conditions to get the job done.

These same agricultural workers live in extreme poverty, and in disadvantaged communities, where they are forced to bear a disproportionate share of California's economic, health, and environmental burdens. Due to this economic hardship, they often lack safe, reliable, and clean transportation options. This creates challenges for them to get work, as California's agricultural sites are located in remote areas that are hard to access if you do not own a vehicle.

At the local level, there are several public transit agencies providing vanpooling services to the state's agricultural laborers. This has been an invaluable, multi-benefit service. Vanpooling eases economic hardship for these workers by giving them a reliable means to get to work every day. It enables workers to follow the crops throughout the seasons across the state, giving them access to more year-round work, rather than limiting them to work just one season. Vanpooling services have the added benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through reduced vehicle miles traveled, as well as reducing the number of unlicensed and uninsured drivers on the roadway while minimizing the wear and tear on the state's streets and highways.

Despite the progress these groups have made in servicing our agricultural workers, there remains a larger, unmet need for vanpool services across the state. Groups currently operating agricultural vanpool services lack the funding needed to not only retire and replace existing vans when they are at the end of their useful life, but to purchase additional vans to service the growing demand for more vanpools.



While vanpooling reduces emissions by reducing the number of vehicles on the road, it provides an essential service to agricultural laborers. Workers are the backbone of California's agricultural economy. They have the right to safe and reliable transportation to their jobs. **For these reasons, we respectfully request the creation of a statewide agricultural vanpool grant program that would enable entities to compete for funds to purchase and maintain agricultural vanpools, along with a \$6M allocation of Cap-and-Trade revenues to this program for fiscal year 2017-18.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Ed Gause AD56 Lu Ly AD21

Roy Soto AD32 Jacqueline AD44

Morgan AD37 KS AD13

Cecilia Aguilar AD4 Ana M. Lachler AD30

J AD31 Sabri AD60

