

California Legislature

March 31, 2017

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

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Allocation of General Funds to CDFA for Pest Prevention Efforts

Dear Chairs Mitchell, Ting, Wieckowski and Bloom:

The undersigned legislators write to request \$5 million from the General Fund be allocated in the 2017-18 state budget to the Pierce's Disease Control Program (Program) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture to combat and minimize the statewide impact of Pierce's disease and its vectors in California. In 2011, the state ceased funding for the program which provides much needed protection to California's wine and grape industry and the economic activity it generates.

California vineyards create nearly 330,000 jobs, generate more than \$12.3 billion in wages, result in roughly \$14.7 billion in state and federal tax dollars, and produce some of the world's finest wines. However, California winegrape growing is under attack from a number of pests and diseases, which result in hundreds of millions in lost revenue annually, and affect wine quality and production. Large swaths of vineyards statewide are being impacted by Pierce's Disease, Red Blotch, Grapevine Leaf Roll disease and others.

The Program was established in 2000 during the height of the Pierce's Disease outbreak that decimated much of California's winegrape production and has since been expanded to include other pests and diseases.

From 2000 to 2011, the Program was seen as a model for how state, federal and industry funds could be used in collaboration to tackle issues important to agriculture. However, in 2011 the state stopped providing matching funds to the Program. Nearly \$3.1 million in funding was cut in 2011 and was never replaced. In FY 2009-10 the total Program cost was just \$34 million, of

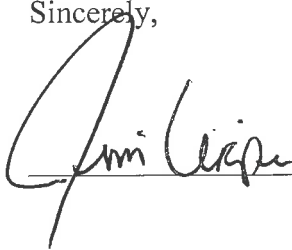
which \$30.1 million was federal funding and \$3.7 million was State funding. Currently, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides \$15.5 million in annual funding while the State of California provides no funding whatsoever.

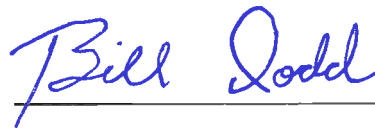
While the Program still generates positive results, using funds generated through the voluntary self-assessment on the winegrape growing industry and funds from the USDA, there have been recent major outbreaks of Pierce's Disease in the North Coast and spikes in Glassy-winged Sharpshooter populations in the Central Valley.

In light of these two major outbreaks, and the damage caused by other pests and diseases around the state, it is time for the Legislature to act to provide adequate funding to protect our precious agricultural commodities.

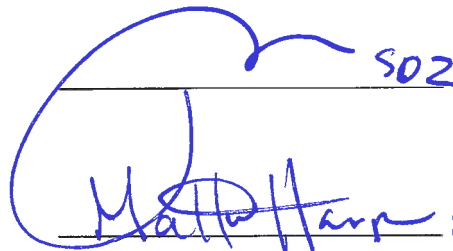
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

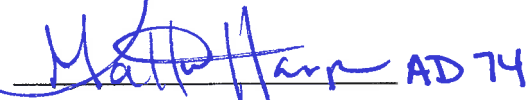
 AD9

 SD3

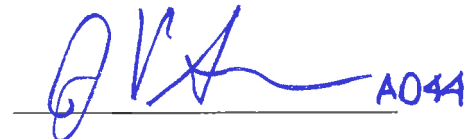
 AD4

 SD2

 SD12

 AD74

 AD10

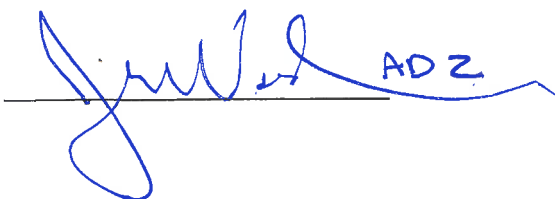
 A044

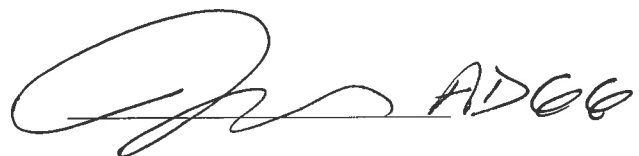
 SD14

 SD1

 SD8

 AD1

 AD2

 AD66

Jeff Stone SD28

Cathleen Magyari SD05

Alma M. Leal AB30

Bill Lurk AD20

Lu Ly AD21

Frank Bigelow AD5

Dante Acosta AD30

R. J. Sauer AD32

Joel Anderson SD38

JA AD31

David AD12

Jerry Hill SD13

Don Wilk 43

Catherine B. B. AD16

cc: Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Honorable Michael Cohen
Honorable Karen Ross
Christian Griffith
Mark Ibele
Chris Wood
Craig Cornett
Kip Lipper
Mary Kaems
Marie Liu
Steve McCarthy

Honorable Members of Budget Committees
Honorable Members of Wine Select
Committees
Susan Chan
Daniel Ballon
Derek Chernow
Robert Spiegel
Graciela Castillo-Krings
Jeff Le
The Gualco Group, Inc.