



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAWG Statement on the Passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa

SACRAMENTO, January 6, 2026 – The California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) extends its deepest condolences on the passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa, a fourth-generation farmer, member of the Congressional Wine Caucus, and longtime advocate for California agriculture and rural communities.

Representative LaMalfa brought the perspective of a working farmer to Congress and consistently stood up for growers, ranchers, and rural families across the state. He understood the challenges facing agriculture and was a respected voice on issues impacting farming, land stewardship, water access, and the wine industry.

"Doug LaMalfa was a trusted and principled advocate for farmers and rural America," said John Chandler, Chair of the CAWG Board of Directors and Chandler Farms. "He understood agriculture because he lived it, and our industry benefited from his leadership."

CAWG President Natalie Collins added, "California winegrape growers deeply valued his commitment to making sure their voices were heard, and the time he consistently made to meet with growers and listen to their concerns firsthand."

On behalf of California winegrape growers statewide, CAWG extends its sincere condolences to his wife Jill, their children, and family during this difficult time.

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About the California Association of Winegrape Growers: CAWG is a statewide nonprofit trade association advocating for California's winegrape growers to ensure the sustainability of the winegrape industry. CAWG promotes the industry's long-term success by advancing the adoption of sound public policies and fostering awareness and understanding of winegrape growers' contributions to the economy, environment, and California communities. Learn more at cawg.org.
