



The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0501

September 22, 2017

Dear Mr. LaMalfa,

As your organic constituents, we would like to communicate with you how important it is to increase public funding for organic research. We urge you to sign on as a cosponsor of H.R. 2436, the Organic Agriculture Research Act of 2017.

We work incredibly hard to produce excellent quality crops, livestock, and food products that are consistent with the rigorous National Organic Standards. We have a wide range of organic research needs that continue to go unmet because of the small amount of dedicated organic research funds currently allocated.

While California is number one in organic production in the U.S., we know that we can accomplish even more with the level of support that our conventional counterparts enjoy. Local extension and University of California research and extension centers are primarily focused on problems in conventional systems. They only occasionally have the resources to conduct organic studies that would help our operations.

But we need more than the occasional study. It truly makes a difference when new organic research findings are released. Organic research helps us to continually improve our operations in an ever-changing environment of variable rainfall and temperatures, an array of domestic and invasive pests, and the challenges of organic nutrient management.

The Organic Agriculture Research Act of 2017 will increase organic research funds in the Farm Bill to \$50 million annually, assuring researchers that they have ongoing support to conduct organic research. We urge you to help stabilize organic research funding, and help us keep our competitive edge, by cosponsoring the Organic Agriculture Research Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

Bryce Lundberg
Lundberg Farms

Phil LaRocca
LaRocca Vineyards

Nisha Carrow
Baugher Ranch Organics

Steve Wallach & Donna Williamson
Wild Rose Meadow Farm

Karen Foley
Purveyors Kitchen

Bob Steinacher
Maywood Farms

Regan Lundberg
Adobe Farms

Leslie Boyle
Alturas Ranches, LLC

Clinton Baker
Baker Sustainable Farm

Belcampo Butchery

Mary Occasion
Churn Creek Meadow Organic Farm

Wade Hough
Gaea's Garden

Allen Harthorn
Harpo's Organics

Olivia Newsome-Grieco & Darro Grieco
Berkeley Olive Grove

Gary Black
Black Farm

Vicky Bond
Bond Hay Ranch

Bob Bremner
Bremner Farms

Kurt Albrecht
Chaffin Family Orchards

John Tecklin
Mountain Bounty Farm

Teresa Cortese
Elysian Valley Ranch

Ananta McSweeney
Ananda Farm

Mia Van Fleet
Defanti Ranch

John & Armen Carlon
Sierra Cascade Blueberry Farm

Jim Miller
Sweetwater Farm

Dave Atkinson
E & A Organic Walnuts