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Tim Cansler

916-880-3550

[tcansler@cacasa.org](mailto:tcansler@cacasa.org)

[www.cacasa.org](http://www.cacasa.org)

**California Veteran Lawmakers Land Huge Roles on  
Congressional Agriculture Panel**

San Diego, California – January 25, 2011. The California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) congratulates California’s veteran lawmakers Congressman Dennis Cardoza (Merced), Congressman Jim Costa (Fresno) and Congressman Joe Baca (Rialto) on becoming top Democrats on crucial subcommittees with jurisdiction over important agriculture issues to California.

“This is incredibly good news for California as these veteran lawmakers will have substantial impact on agriculture issues important to us, said CACASA President Robert Atkins.

The lawmakers respective leadership roles include Jim Costa, Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture that has jurisdiction over rural development, farm security and family farming matters, research, education and extension, biotechnology, foreign agriculture assistance, and trade promotion programs. Joe Baca will lead Democrats on the Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture with jurisdiction over food stamp, nutrition and consumer programs, fruits and vegetables, honey and bees, marketing and promotion orders, plant pesticides, quarantine, adulteration of seeds and insect pests, and organic agriculture. Dennis Cardoza will be the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry that oversees issues including livestock, dairy, poultry, meat, seafood and seafood products, inspections, marketing, and promotion of such commodities, aquaculture, animal welfare, and grazing.

“California is incredibly fortunate to have such experienced members on the Agriculture Committee as Congress is expected to reauthorize Farm Bill provisions that are set to expire at the end of September 2012,” added Atkins. “New programs were incorporated into the last Farm Bill by these congressional leaders that are important to California and the nation and it will be important to keep those provisions in the next Farm Bill.”

CACASA looks forward to working with members of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress to ensure a safe, healthy and vibrant U.S. food system.

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