

# California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
President Pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 201  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support Confirmation - Karen Ross, Secretary for California Department of Food & Agriculture

Dear Senator Steinberg:

On behalf of the California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Association (CACASA), I am writing in support of Karen Ross' confirmation as Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers promote and protect the agricultural industry, the environment and the public in California. Appointed by our respective County Board of Supervisors in each of the 58 counties, our members carry out the laws and regulations of the state and enforce local ordinances; much of this work is done under the guidance and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. For example, we provide the first line of defense against the introduction of injurious plant and animal pests and protect the consumer through our dedicated enforcement of agricultural and weights and measures laws and regulations. As such, CACASA's relationship with CDFA and the Secretary is vital.

We believe that Ms. Ross brings the perfect complement of skills, experience, and integrity essential to the role of Secretary for Food and Agriculture for California. We strongly believe she deserves confirmation to this position.

Ms. Ross has demonstrated outstanding agricultural leadership in California and for the United States. CACASA members worked closely with Ms. Ross in her role as President of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers. In that position, she worked on complex and diverse issues including sustainable growing practices, international trade and marketing and on critical invasive pest issues with CACASA. More recently, CACASA has appreciated her leadership as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture where she helped California, and the nation, deal with diverse and challenging agricultural issues. Ms. Ross has demonstrated leadership in guiding agricultural policy through work with the California State Board of Agriculture and the California Agriculture Vision project.

Ms. Ross has an outstanding work ethic and integrity which has allowed her forge relationships and respect of industry and all related stakeholders. CACASA believes her professional demeanor, good judgment and talents will well serve the state, especially in these challenging times.

Therefore, we strongly support the confirmation of Karen Ross as Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Atkins  
President, CACASA



Robert G. Atkins, President  
San Diego County  
Agricultural Commissioner /  
Sealer of Weights & Measures  
5555 Overland Avenue, Ste. 3101  
San Diego, CA 92123-1256  
858/694-2741

Mary Pfeiffer, President-elect  
Shasta County  
Agricultural Commissioner /  
Sealer of Weights & Measures  
3179 Bechelli Lane, Suite 210  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 224-4949

Patrick Griffin, Vice President  
(Agriculture)  
Siskiyou County  
Agricultural Commissioner /  
Sealer of Weights & Measures  
525 South Foothill Drive  
Yreka, California 96097-3036  
(530) 841-4025

Kurt Floren, Vice President  
(Weights & Measures)  
Los Angeles County  
Agricultural Commissioner /  
Sealer of Weights & Measures  
12300 Lower Azusa Road  
Arcadia, CA 91005-5872  
(626)575-5471

Mark Quisenberry, Exec Secreta  
Sutter County  
Agricultural Commissioner /  
Sealer of Weights & Measures  
142 Garden Highway  
Yuba City, CA 95991-5512  
530/822-7500

Tim Cansler  
Executive Director  
142 Garden Highway  
Yuba City, CA 95991-5512  
916-880-3550