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Nov. 6, 2020

Submitted via email

Kelly Long, chair
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003

Re: Nov. 10 meeting agenda item #32, Approval of the Use of \$3.65 Million in Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund Moneys to Support the Farmworker Household Assistance Program

Dear Chair Long,

On behalf of Farm Bureau of Ventura County, I urge you and the board to approve the agenda item referenced above, dedicating additional funding to the Farmworker Household Assistance Program as recommended by the Human Services Agency.

The Farmworker Household Assistance Program is the product of a remarkable collaborative effort by agricultural employers and farmworker advocates to provide aid to these vulnerable members of our community. We appreciate that the Board of Supervisors stepped up to be a partner in this effort by administering the program through the Farmworker Resource Program and by providing early matching funds.

As you know, the deluge of applications for these funds has been overwhelming. The pandemic and associated economic disruption have slammed Ventura County's agricultural industry, as markets vanished almost overnight or were thrown into turmoil. Crops were plowed under, and workers lost their jobs or saw their hours reduced. Others have had to quit and stay at home to care for children or ill family members.

The additional \$3.65 million in CRF funds will make it possible for all of the qualified applications to be funded at a reduced amount of \$1,000 per household. This is a lifeline that will ensure that thousands of families can stay in their homes, feed their children, and obtain medical care.

I'm sure that you and your fellow board members understand how critical these workers are to the health of not just our industry but the entire community. Please provide them the additional help they need.

Sincerely,

John Krist
Chief executive officer

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