



CENTER FOR
FOOD SAFETY



Rajinder Sahota, Deputy Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
10001 I street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mrs. Sahota,

On behalf of the undersigned agricultural organizations, we write to express our strong support for California's Cap-and-Invest program and its continued role in supporting the state's agricultural sector and rural communities.

[Nearly half](#) of the country's vegetables and [over three-quarters](#) of the country's fruits and nuts are grown in California, with export values increasing by [hundreds of millions each year](#). However, California's agricultural producers are facing increasing challenges, including rising energy and input costs, ongoing water constraints, and intensifying impacts from wildfires, extreme heat, and air pollution. These pressures affect farm productivity, worker safety, and the economic stability of rural regions across the state. Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses are working to remain productive and competitive in an increasingly difficult operating environment where long-term investment and policy certainty are essential.

We are concerned that recently proposed changes to the program risk undermining support for the agricultural operations and rural communities that form the backbone of California's food system, to the benefit of large oil companies and other incumbent fossil fuel interests. California agriculture depends on stable, practical investments and a competitive environment, and the strength of rural economies depends on policies that reinforce this balance rather than shift resources toward entrenched interests. These investments coming from the GGRF are not theoretical. They directly support on-farm efficiency, water management, and cost relief, and weakening them risks further destabilizing an already strained sector at a critical moment.

Given the scale and importance of California agriculture, these growing issues require immediate, coordinated action and sustained investment, and California's Cap-and-Invest is a primary solution.

The Cap-and-Invest program provides a stable, market-based framework to reduce emissions while generating significant funding that is reinvested into programs that directly benefit agriculture. Since its inception, the program has generated nearly \$33 billion, with more than \$18 billion awarded and over \$12.8 billion supporting projects across California.

For agricultural stakeholders, Cap-and-Invest delivers critical benefits:

- Investments in Agricultural and Rural Communities: Funding supports programs such as the Healthy Soils Program, State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, and Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Program, helping farmers improve soil health, water use efficiency, and on-farm sustainability while strengthening rural economies.
- Support for On-Farm Efficiency and Modernization: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund investments help producers upgrade equipment, improve energy efficiency, and adopt cleaner technologies, making necessary improvements more achievable.
- Relief from Rising Energy Costs: Utility bill credits and affordability programs help offset increasing energy costs for agricultural operations and rural households.
- Protection from Climate Impacts: Investments in water efficiency, wildfire prevention, and climate resilience help safeguard farmland, livestock, and agricultural workers.
- Stable and Predictable Policy: The program provides long-term certainty that supports planning and investment decisions essential to agricultural operations.
- Healthier Communities and Workforce: Reductions in harmful air pollution improve conditions for farmworkers and rural communities, supporting a healthier and more productive workforce.

Cap-and-Invest is a critical tool that both reduces emissions and reinvests in the long-term resilience and stability of California agriculture.

We urge you to continue supporting and strengthening this program to ensure it delivers sustained benefits for farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and rural communities across the state. As you consider the future of Cap-and-Invest, it is essential to adopt strong rules that preserve the program's integrity, provide market certainty, and ensure it continues delivering meaningful benefits to the communities and industries that power California's economy, rather than concentrating advantages among large oil companies and other major emitters.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Grissom, Executive Director
Food Access LA

Kristina Sinclair, Staff Attorney
Center for Food Safety

Lindsey Pratt, Farm Institute Director
Sierra Harvest