



AGRICULTURAL
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ASSOCIATION

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July 14, 2015

The Honorable David G. Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

On behalf of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) and our members, I am writing to voice our strong support for H.R. 2898, the “Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015.” ARA represents the interests of the nation’s agricultural retailers and distributors in Washington, D.C. We have a large number of California members that provide essential products and services to the state’s farmers and ranchers.

California is currently facing the worst drought that ARA members and their farm and ranch customers have ever experienced. A growing number of agribusinesses and their rural communities are feeling the devastating consequences of this historic drought and it is important Congress take action to bring much needed relief to California’s agricultural industry and their communities.

H.R. 2898 will deliver relief to ARA members and their communities by helping address complex and contradictory laws, court decisions, and regulations at the state and federal level that have made the drought and water situation in these areas significantly worse.

Water is the lifeblood of any community, state and nation. It is critical for Congress to act so California’s Central Valley agri-businesses, farmers, and their communities have the water necessary to survive and grow our nation’s food supply. ARA and our members look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 2898 in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue!

Sincerely,

Richard D. Gupton
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Counsel