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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in support of funding for the following programs of critical importance to the County in the *FY 2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill:

Pest Detection and Prevention, Specialty Crops, and other programs

The Section 10007 program provides funding to State and local agencies to prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests and diseases. For 2018, USDA allocated \$14.8 million to California from Section 10007 to strengthen pest detection and surveillance, identification, and threat mitigation, and to safeguard the nursery production system.

Agriculture is the number one contributor to the County’s economy and through the multiplier effect, contributes a total of \$2.8 billion to the local economy and provides 25,370 jobs. Other programs of importance to the County include the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, the Specialty Crop Research program, and the Food Safety & Inspection Service, as well as USDA’s Rural Development programs.

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

The County’s Public Health Department operates the Women, Infants & Children nutrition program and currently serves over 24,000 clients at nine locations. A high level

of funding for WIC will allow Santa Barbara County to continue to serve families that need assistance.

As your subcommittee drafts the *FY 2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill*, please support the highest level of funding possible for these programs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gilchrest". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg