



The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair  
 Assembly Committee on Natural Resources  
 1020 N Street, Room 164  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

March 19, 2019

Re: AB 409 (Limón) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Friedman,

We write in support of AB 409 (Limón), a bill to develop climate adaptation tools for farmers and ranchers. Farmers in our state are on the frontlines of greater weather extremes. This critical industry needs resources to begin to adjust to the reality of a changing climate.

California farmers and ranchers are critical to our state’s economy, food security, and environment, producing nearly \$60 billion worth of crops, supporting 2.5 million jobs, and stewarding the 25 million acres of land they depend on.

They consistently provide these services to our state despite the inherent risks in the agricultural business. Every season, farmers have to manage the dynamic interactions between weather, soils, crops, livestock, markets, and regulations. But in recent years, managing that risk has become much harder because, as the president of the National Farmers Union [wrote recently](#), “Mother Nature, our most important business partner, is changing dramatically.”

The past decade’s record-setting droughts, fires, precipitation events, and heat waves, coupled with at times conflicting regulations, have demonstrated the serious threat more extreme and variable weather pose to our agricultural industry, food security, natural resources, and communities. The changes in climate farmers have been observing have become, as former Defense Secretary Hagel called it in a [2014 speech](#), a “threat multiplier.”

Farmers and ranchers are hard-working, independent, and practical problem-solvers. Given the right information, training, and tools, they can become resilient to many of the challenges ahead through innovative management practices, smart business planning, and new technologies.

The state and its world-class agricultural schools have made significant investments in research to better understand specific crops' and regions' unique climate risks and to develop better agricultural risk management practices. But not enough has been done to translate those studies, models, and emerging technologies into tools and trainings that would inform producers' day-to-day decision-making, crop planning, and long-term infrastructure and equipment investments.

For these reasons, we support AB 409's effort to bring together the state's leading agricultural and climate researchers with producers and the industry to develop farmer-centered tools and trainings on climate risk management. The past few years have underscored the urgency of this need. We urge your 'aye' vote on AB 409.

Sincerely,

Brian Shobe  
Associate Policy Director  
**California Climate and Agriculture  
Network (Sponsor)**

Patricia Carillo  
Executive Director  
**Agriculture & Land-Based Training  
Association**

Michael Miiller  
Director of Government Relations  
**California Association of Winegrape  
Growers**

Jane Sooby  
Senior Policy Specialist  
**California Certified Organic Farmers  
(CCOF)**

Beth Smoker  
Policy Director  
**California Food & Farming Network**

Reggie Knox  
Executive Director  
**California Farm Link**

Laurel Marcus  
Executive Director  
**California Land Stewardship Institute**

Karen Sweet  
Executive Director  
**California Rangeland Conservation  
Coalition, Inc.**

Rebecca Spector  
West Coast Director  
**Center for Food Safety**

Mary Kimball  
Executive Director  
**Center for Land-Based Learning**

Dave Runsten  
Policy Director  
**Community Alliance with Family  
Farmers**

Sigrid Wright  
Executive Director  
**Community Environmental Council**

Jan Derecho  
Executive Director  
**Ecological Farming Association**

Lauren Tucker  
Executive Director  
**Kiss the Ground**

Dave Henson  
Executive Director  
**Occidental Arts & Ecology Center**

Paul Mason  
V.P., Policy & Incentives  
**Pacific Forest Trust**

Margaret Reeves  
Senior Scientist  
**Pesticide Action Network**

Sheryl Landrum  
Executive Director  
**Resource Conservation District of  
Greater San Diego County**

Andrea Mackenzie  
General Manager  
**Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority**

Adam Livingston  
Director of Planning and Policy  
**Sequoia Riverlands Trust**

Kris Beal  
Executive Director  
**Vineyard Team**

Jo Ann Baumgartner  
Executive Director  
**Wild Farm Alliance**

Mel Lions  
Director  
**Wild Willow Farm and Education Center**