



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
 Chair, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
 1020 N Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 606 (Mathis) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bauer-Kahan:

The above listed organizations are writing in support of AB 606 (Mathis) to eliminate the sunset of Section 2087 of the California Fish and Game Code. We represent farmers, ranchers, agricultural businesses and communities that produce food, fiber, and other agricultural products for our local

communities, state, nation, and world. Section 2087, which is recognized as the accidental take provision in the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), provides California farmers and ranchers the ability to produce food and fiber without fear of penalties under CESA if they accidentally take a species listed as candidate, threatened, or endangered. We respectfully request your AYE vote when AB 606 (Mathis) is heard by your committee.

California's farmers and ranchers provide habitat for wildlife throughout the state. Unfortunately, California's wildlife protection laws can sometimes make farming and ranching a challenge. Section 2087 provides an incentive for California's farmers and ranchers to produce food and fiber in an environmentally friendly manner by reducing some of the liability associated with providing wildlife habitat on their property. Many farmers are fearful that if they allow habitat to develop on their property that they will unwittingly attract threatened and endangered species. They are then fearful that in the course of their routine and ongoing agricultural activities that they will accidentally harm one of these listed species, which can trigger civil and criminal liability. Section 2087 provides them assurances that pure accidental take will not be the impetus for liability. As a result, there is a net benefit for wildlife in California. The current statute will sunset on January 1, 2024, and this bill aims to remove it completely as it has been extended several times. The most recent extension was successfully carried by Senator Dodd (D – Napa) in 2019.

We believe that farming and wildlife can and do coexist throughout California. The elimination of the sunset provision in Section 2087 further encourages the development of wildlife friendly farming practices. Please contact Katie Little with California Farm Bureau with any questions at (916) 446-4647 or klittle@cfbf.com. Again, we respectfully request your AYE vote on AB 606 (Mathis).

Sincerely,



Kirk Wilbur
Vice President of Government Affairs
CA Cattlemen's Association



Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Tricia Geringer
Vice President of Government Affairs
Agricultural Council of California



Robert Verloop, Executive Director/CEO
California Walnut Commission



Ian LeMay, President
California Fresh Fruit Association



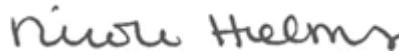
Will Scott, Jr., President
African American Farmers of California



Richard Matoian, President
American Pistachio Growers



Renee Pinel, President/CEO
Western Plant Health Association



Nicole Helms, Executive Director
California Alfalfa and Forage Association



Manuel Cunha, Jr., President
Nisei Farmers League



Roger Isom, President/CEO
California Cotton Ginners and Growers
Association
Western Agricultural Processors Association



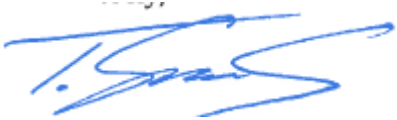
Chris Zanobini
CA Grain and Feed Association



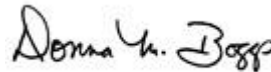
Ruthann Anderson, President/CEO
California Association of Pest Control Advisers



Katie Little
Policy Advocate
CA Farm Bureau



Todd Sanders, Executive Director
California Apple Commission
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
Olive Growers Council of California



Donna Boggs
California Seed Association



Mike Montna, President/CEO
California Tomato Growers Association



Debra Murdock
California Pear Growers Association