

November 13, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor's Office
2550 Mariposa Mall #3013
Fresno, CA 93721
FAX NUMBER: (559) 445-5328

Dear

On behalf of (*your farm/family*), I would like to express my support for the continued funding of *The California Land Conservation Act*, also known as the Williamson Act. The proposed \$35+ million cut from the current and future budgets would adversely affect agricultural land in Fresno County to a devastating degree. Developmental pressures are already overwhelming in Fresno County and the Williamson Act has successfully slowed the destruction of our agricultural land. As of January 2006, close to 1.5 million acres in Fresno County were listed under the Williamson Act.

Farmers are price takers, not price setters. Because of this, farmers are unable to pass their cost of doing business onto their customers. The cost of farming in California has been exorbitantly high due to increased land value. The Williamson Act has offered an innovative approach to agricultural land protection for over 42 years by building an interrelated set of property tax, land use and conservation measures in a single policy package. The program has been successful because counties are reimbursed by the state. Without state assistance, Fresno County would not be able to fund the Williamson Act. The already strained budget for Fresno County offers no potential for farmland protection incentives.

The importance of our farmland cannot be underestimated. California agriculture provides quality food and fiber and precious open space. The Williamson Act has saved some of the richest soil in the world and simultaneously preserved much of our open space.

Because of these reasons, I strongly urge your support in restoring the Williamson Act Subvention Funding.

Sincerely,

(*your name*)

(*your business name*)