

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

February 8, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, beginning January 11, 2007, California was subjected to extreme cold temperatures, significantly damaging crops throughout the state. As a result, on February 2, 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger requested a Presidential disaster declaration for Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo and Yuba counties, as described under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. We write as members of California's bipartisan Congressional delegation to urge your approval of the Governor's request for federal assistance.

The damage associated with extreme low temperatures in California has been devastating to the state's multi-billion dollar agricultural industry. This freeze is especially concerning to California's \$1 billion citrus industry, which provides nearly 95% of the country's fresh citrus supply. In many cases, only a small percentage of citrus crops had been harvested prior to the freeze. As such, approximately 92 million cartons of fruit were on trees and vulnerable during this period of extreme low temperatures. The Central Valley Valencia crop had not even begun harvesting and 70% of the state's lemon and mandarin crops were still on trees.

Some other crops experiencing significant damage include: mango, grapefruit, avocado, lettuce, broccoli, pepper, cauliflower, artichoke and celery. In short, a significant variety of crops over a large geographic area in California were impacted. To date, damages are estimated to exceed \$1.2 billion and this number is only expected to grow as damage assessments continue statewide.

It is important to note that these losses will not only be felt by California farmers. The economic impacts of such a catastrophic freeze will be felt throughout the state. Thousands of hardworking farm workers and their families are now facing job displacement and income loss. The Central Valley citrus industry alone employs 12,000 workers. Unemployment related to the freeze is expected to exceed levels experienced during the freezes of 1990-1991 and 1998-1999 and many displaced workers are already

seeking food, clothing, and housing assistance. Small businesses and rural communities who depend on agribusiness such as restaurants, truckers, and retail suppliers are also being severely impacted and will require extensive economic assistance in order to recover.

At this time, the California Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and other state and local agencies are doing all they can to provide relief. And federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been actively assisting in the disaster recovery process. However, it is clear that the magnitude of this disaster is far beyond the resources of the state and requires the full support of the federal government. Therefore, we strongly support Governor Schwarzenegger's request for a Presidential disaster declaration.

We appreciate your assistance in this important matter and look forward to working with you in response to this disaster.

Best Regards,

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NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House

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DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

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BARBARA BOXER  
United States Senator

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DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress

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JOE BACA  
Member of Congress

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DAVID DREIER  
Member of Congress

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JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

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ANNA ESHOO  
Member of Congress

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MICHAEL HONDA  
Member of Congress

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ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress

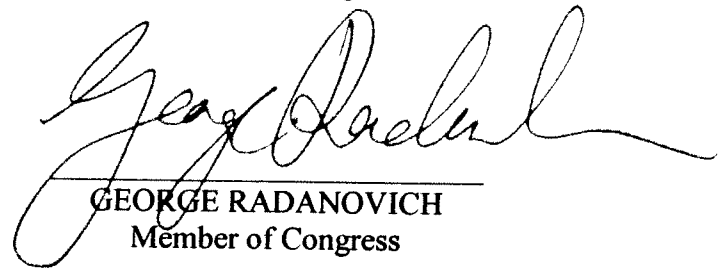
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SAM FARR  
Member of Congress

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DENNIS CARDOZA  
Member of Congress

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GEORGE RADANOVICH  
Member of Congress

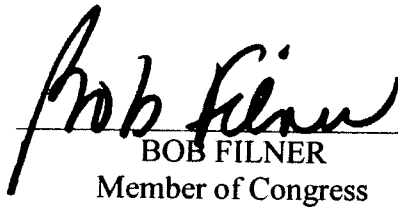
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KEVIN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress

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LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress

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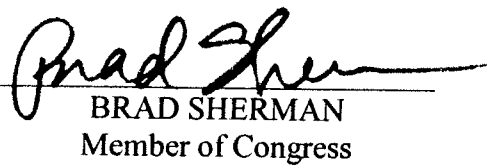


BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

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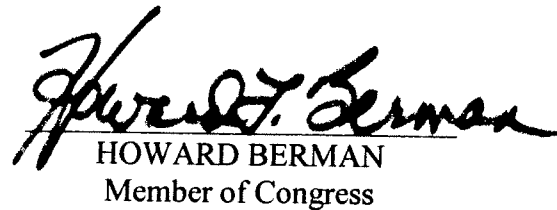
BUCK MCKEON  
Member of Congress

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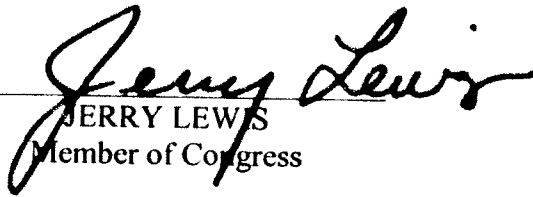


BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress


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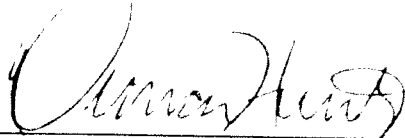
HOWARD BERMAN  
Member of Congress

  
JERRY LEWIS  
Member of Congress

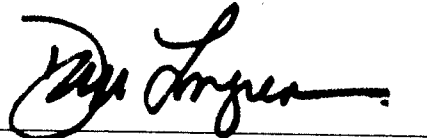
DARRELL ISSA  
Member of Congress

  
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MARY BONO  
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DUNCAN HUNTER  
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LORETTA SANCHEZ  
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