



The Honorable Luis Alejo
State Capitol, Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 94249-0028

March 28, 2012

RE: AB 2174 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Alejo,

I write on behalf of the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN), a coalition of the state's leading sustainable agriculture and farmer member organizations, to express our support for AB 2174. By proposing to dedicate a portion of the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) grant funding to assisting growers in nutrient management planning and related activities, AB 2174 will provide needed resources to the state's agricultural industry and address some of the state's most pressing environmental issues.

Declining technical assistance resources for the California growers threatens to undermine the state's goals of reducing non-point source pollution and supporting a vibrant agricultural industry. Re-investing in technical assistance for California growers is needed as the natural resource and stewardship issues facing many growers have grown more complex in recent years.

Programs like FREP should be judged by their ability to achieve meaningful change in our communities. AB 2174 will help move the program to address some of the 21st century challenges agriculture and our communities confront.

We look forward to working with your office to support AB 2174.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Merrill
Policy Director