

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

AB 1066 – OPPOSE



FLOOR ALERT

AB 1066 (Gonzalez) **OPPOSE**

- **AB 1066 will hurt farmworkers:**
 - \$1.5 billion in reduced wages
 - \$4,500 in reduced income per farmworker
 - 16% reduction in farmworker income
- **AB 1066 will hurt farm production:**
 - \$5.4 billion loss in crop production
 - The removal of 1.25 million acres of farm land from production
 - 7.2% decrease in crop production
- **AB 1066 will hurt the economy:**
 - Up to 78,000 lost farm, processing, transportation, and support industry jobs
 - \$7.8 billion in lost income statewide
- Farmers in California must compete with farmers in other states and countries that already have far lower wage costs. The buyers of our products – big box and traditional grocery chains, restaurant chains – set the price they will pay our farmers. If California farmers cannot meet the stated price, the buyers can and do purchase from farmers in other states and countries.
- California is already at a competitive disadvantage with other major agriculture production states. We are one of only a few states that require any overtime pay for agricultural workers, and our requirement for daily overtime is already the most expensive. This legislation will only exacerbate that competitive disadvantage.
- We cannot view this bill in isolation. California saddles its farmers with the highest regulatory costs and compliance burdens in the nation. Below is a painfully partial list:
 - Electricity costs for industrial users that are **63.4% higher** than the national average.
 - Gasoline costs **nearly one-third higher** than the national average.
 - Diesel costs **14% higher** than the national average.
 - The **highest workers' compensation premium rates** in the nation.
 - **California-only restrictions** on use of approved crop protection tools that increase the risk of crop loss due to pests and disease.
 - **Water supply costs driven** by regulatory loss of surface water supplies, forcing farmers to drill new and deeper wells, pay more for energy to pump, and scramble to purchase expensive water (if it can be found and conveyed) from others.

Unfortunately, this legislation will end up hitting many agricultural workers in the wallet. Farmers may be forced to pay higher overtime costs during peak harvest, but for the tens of thousands of workers who are employed year round (thinning trees, preparing ground for planting, etc.) the pressures of cost avoidance will translate to fewer hours worked as farmers add additional employees to avoid overtime costs.

For these reasons, we are **OPPOSED to AB 1066.**

**African American Farmers of California
Agricultural Council of California
Alhambra Chamber of Commerce
Almond Hullers & Processors Association
American Pistachio Growers
Association of California Egg Farmers
California Asian Chamber of Commerce
California Agricultural Aircraft Association
California Association of Nurseries & Garden
Centers
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Blueberry Association
California Cattlemen's Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners Association
California Cotton Growers Association
California Dairies, Inc.
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fresh Fruit Association
California League of Food Processors
California Manufacturers and Technology
Association**

**California Pear Growers Association
California Seed Association
California State Floral Association
California Tomato Growers Association
California Trucking Association
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Family Winemakers of California
Far West Equipment Dealers Association
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce
Lodi Chamber of Commerce
Milk Producers Council
National Federation of Independent Business
National Hmong American Farmers
Nisei Farmers League
Ventura County Agricultural Association
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Growers Association
Western Plant Health Association
Western United Dairymen
Wine Institute**