



AUGUST 17, 2020

Our Coalition:

California Farm Bureau
Western Growers
Agricultural Council of California
Butte County Farm Bureau
Fresno County Farm Bureau
Kern County Farm Bureau
Madera County Farm Bureau
Marin County Farm Bureau
Merced County Farm Bureau
Monterey County Farm Bureau
Sacramento County Farm Bureau
San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Solano County Farm Bureau
Sonoma County Farm Bureau
Tulare County Farm Bureau
Yolo County Farm Bureau

CALIFORNIA FARMERS CALL ON BIG CITY MAYORS TO CORRECT THE RECORD ON PROP 15

MAYORS FALSELY STATE PROP 15 PROTECTS AGRICULTURE

SACRAMENTO – California Family Farmers Against Prop 15, a coalition of California’s leading agricultural organizations representing farmers and ranchers of all types across the state, called on the state’s big city mayors to correct their misstatements about Prop 15’s impacts on agriculture.

“Contrary to the mayors’ letter to the Governor, Prop 15 does not protect agriculture – it hikes taxes on fruit trees, nut trees, grape vines, dairies, irrigation equipment, barns and much more”, said **Jamie Johansson, President of California Farm Bureau**. “We urge the mayors to get the facts right. Prop 15 won’t just hike taxes on farmers and ranchers – it will increase food costs. Their constituents deserve to hear the truth on this.”

A group of mayors including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf recently [sent a letter to Gov. Newsom about Prop 15](#). In the letter, the mayors state about Prop 15:

“... all while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, **and agriculture**.” (Emphasis added).

This assertion is false.

Prop 15 proponents exempted agriculture land, but they included a fatal drafting error which exposes agricultural “fixtures and improvements” to higher taxes, including fruit and nut trees, grape vines, dairies, feedlots, irrigation systems and more. The independent, nonpartisan state Legislative Analyst’s Office and the California Assessors’ Association have each confirmed this flaw will expose farmers to higher taxes.

“California’s farmers and ranchers are already at a competitive disadvantage with those in other states and countries with far lower tax and regulatory costs,” said **Dave Puglia, President and CEO of Western Growers**. “Our farmers pay the highest taxes and highest wages in the nation. Another large tax increase on farmers is not sustainable. Californians should reject Proposition 15.”

“Prop 15 is bad for California farmers and bad for California consumers,” said **Emily Rooney, President of the Agricultural Council of California**. “We call on the mayors to correct the record about Prop 15’s impacts on agriculture and oppose this measure.”

For more info, please visit <https://cafarmersagainstop15.com/> or contact Ned Wigglesworth at Ned@SpectrumCampaigns.com.

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