



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / (213) 974-4111

GLORIA MOLINA
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

July 25, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

I urge your support for the Kind-Flake amendment (Farm and Food Policy Reform Amendment) to the current Farm Bill proposal that is up for vote on the floor July 26, 2007. This Farm bill, as currently written, will—put simply—perpetuate a tremendous imbalance in food and farm funding in our state that delivered nearly \$1 billion in subsidies to California rice and cotton growers while only \$64 million flowed to the state for conservation between 2003-2005.

To change this ratio, and to have adequate resources for nutrition, local food and small farm programs that deliver far greater benefit, we need real commodity reform. I believe this amendment is real commodity reform.

As currently written, the House Farm Bill would actually increase the current cap on direct and counter-cyclical payments from \$210,000 a year to \$250,000 a year and remove any cap whatsoever on marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments. Ineffectual payment limitations tend to raise land prices above market levels. This leads to farm consolidation, the disappearance of mid-sized family farms, and even fewer farming opportunities for a new generation of farmers. Effective payment limits would cap direct payments at \$40,000, counter-cyclical payments at \$60,000, and marketing loan payments at \$150,000 for a total cap of \$250,000. It would also establish clear, measurable standards to make sure payment recipients are actually farmers, and close many other loopholes that deprive farmers of needed support.

With the Farm and Food Policy Reform Amendment California would gain 1.2 billion in subsidies for healthy crops, and Latino members districts nationally would gain some 335 million in nutrition programs, small farmer subsidies, etc.

The agricultural reforms in the 2007 Farm Bill should improve the health and protect the environment of all Americans through significantly strengthening Federal nutrition programs, improving access to healthy food for low-income Americans,

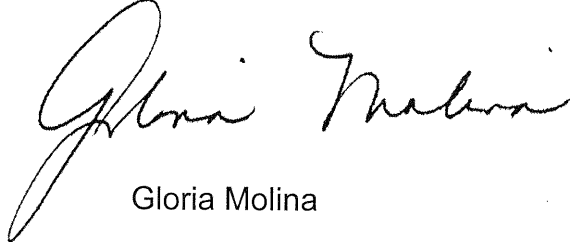
promoting environmental stewardship and conservation, and protecting our food supply, instead of perpetuating the current status quo of corporate welfare for affluent farmers.

There are major concerns in America about food and farming issues that affect the health of citizens in urban America because of increased levels of hunger and food insecurity in low-income populations, lack of access to healthy food in low income areas, as well as chronic diseases related to poor diet such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

There are also major environmental concerns that impact residents arising from distribution of agricultural products. These include distribution through an inefficient food supply transportation network which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and agricultural dependence on pesticides and chemically intensive production that contributes to air and water pollution, as well as dramatic losses of prime agricultural land in certain states due to urban sprawl, this threatens the preservation and protection of urban water sheds.

For all of these reasons and many more, as Supervisor for Los Angeles County, I must stand up and support the Farm and Food Policy Reform Amendment. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Molina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gloria Molina

SUPERVISOR, First District