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June 15, 2010

**County of Madera
Board of Supervisors
200 West 4th Street
Madera, California 93637**

Dear Board of Directors:

In January of this year, Supervisors unanimously agreed to oppose a high-speed-rail route alternative in western Madera County with all members clearly supporting our local agriculture industry.

In a memo provided to his fellow board members that day, Supervisor Bigelow stated, "It is critical to preserve the County's... agriculture businesses and that the largest economic engine in Madera County is not disrupted."

When a member of the audience asked, "If it is going to hurt farmland, what are we going to do?" Supervisor Wheeler replied, "Fight it!"

Supervisor Moss stated, "I have been loyal to agriculture since I've been on."

Supervisor Dominici stated, "We, as the County Board of Supervisors, have to protect our county, the total county, and that is the ag community." As for the position of the cities of Madera and Chowchilla towards the high-speed rail, Supervisor Dominici went on to say, "If they want to oppose the A2, that's up to them."

Finally, Supervisor Rodriguez said in January that our county should "work with what we have." Gentleman, what we have is that agriculture is the economic foundation of Madera County. Agriculture generates over one billion dollars of crop production every year, with the vineyards, orchards, fields, pastures, and dairies funding a large portion of our county's tax base and generating almost one third of all jobs in Madera County.

We have to get this once-in-a-lifetime project right. At the same time, we have to be absolutely sure what is being built for the future doesn't shortchange the industry we rely on today. Please keep this all in mind when you are deciding which high-speed rail route to support.

Sincerely



Al Sheeter
Ranch Manager