



California LABOR Federation

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www.CaliforniaLabor.org

lr/1hg38521/cwa/a1-cio

September 26, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2183 (Stone) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

For a generation of Latino leaders, there is no struggle more personal, more inspiring, or more urgent than that of the farmworkers.

Most of us are here because our parents or grandparents came to this country to work in the fields. Many of us are the children or grandchildren of “braceros,” a program that epitomized this country’s reliance on immigrant labor and then exclusion of those very workers once they were no longer needed.

Many of us saw our parents come home exhausted from long days in the fields, working in sweltering heat or icy frost, stooping over all day to cut crops from the ground. We remember our parents returning with aching backs, blistered hands, and sunburned faces, smelling of the pesticides that surrounded them in the fields. We heard stories of a piece rate system that incentivizes workers to work faster and risk injury and heat stroke just to earn enough to put food on the table.

Many of us were the first in our family to even complete high school and then go onto college. We now hold positions of power our parents could only dream of.

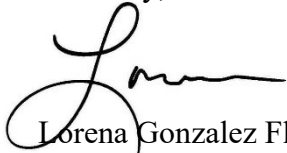
As Latino leaders, the cause of the United Farm Workers Union to improve conditions in the fields has been transformative in our own lives. It is a fight on behalf of the most powerless and yet most essential workers in our economy. Many of us became activists by marching with the farmworkers, found inspiration in the incredible examples set by Cesar Chavez and Dolore Huerta, embraced the eagle as a symbol of hope for our people.

Today we honor the service and sacrifice of those who came before us by using our voices to advocate for farmworkers who continue to work in backbreaking conditions. These workers deserve to come together to make a better life for themselves and their children. The failure to pass meaningful immigration reform has left these workers at the mercy of employers and particularly vulnerable to intimidation and threats to discourage them from joining a union.

Today, we call on you to sign AB 2183 and begin a new legacy of justice in the fields and farms of California. Agricultural labor will never be easy, but a union can raise wages, improve workplace safety, prevent retaliation, and provide job stability. By signing AB 2183, farmworkers will be able to decide for themselves whether to join a union without employer interference.

The farmworkers laboring today in record heat deserve all the protection and all the dignity the State of California can confer. As Latino leaders, we are asking you to champion this issue, which is paramount to Latinos in California and across the country. This is an opportunity to show California and the Nation that Democratic leaders, like yourself, will stand beside farmworkers, just as many great leaders did in the past. California can lead the nation by restoring our commitment to farmworkers. We urge you to honor the hard work and sacrifice of generations of Latino workers and the legacy our families passed onto us by signing AB 2183 (Stone) into law.

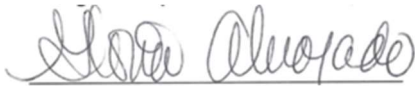
Sincerely,



Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



David Huerta
President
SEIU California State Council



Gloria Alvarado
Executive Director
Orange County Labor Federation



Ron Herrera
Ron Herrera
President
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor



Liz Ortega
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Alameda Labor Council



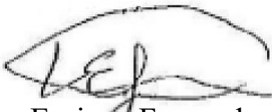
Cesar Lara
Executive Director
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council



Ricardo Lara
Insurance Commissioner
State of California



Stephanie O'Keefe
President
American Federation of Musicians, Local 47



Enrique Fernandez
Vice President of Immigration, Diversity &
Civil Rights
UNITE HERE



Ada Briceno
Co-President
UNITE HERE Local 11



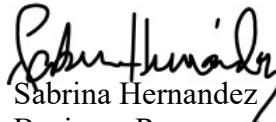
Rudy Gonzalez
Secretary-Treasurer
San Francisco Building & Construction
Trades Council



Bart Pantoja
Business Manager/Financial
Secretary-Treasurer
San Mateo Building & Construction
Trades Council



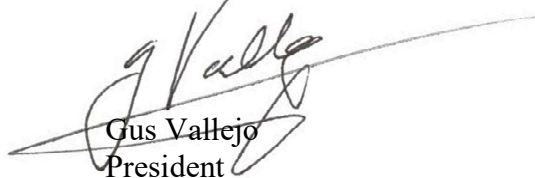
Eddie Reyes
President/Business Agent
Ironworkers Local 377



Sabrina Hernandez
Business Representative
IBEW Local 6



Jose Fuentes Almanza
Business Representative
IBEW Local 6



Gus Vallejo
President
IFPTE Local 21



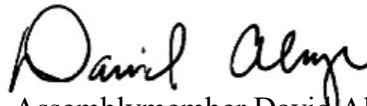
Senator Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Senate



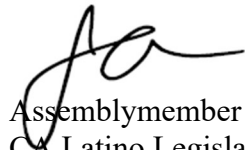
Senator Lena Gonzalez
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Senate



Senator Susan Rubio
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Senate



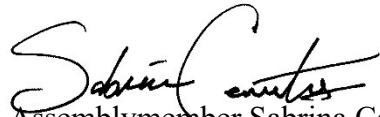
Assemblymember David Alvarez
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



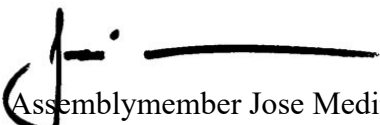
Assemblymember Mia Bonta
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes
Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Jose Medina
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Luz Rivas
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Robert Rivas
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly



Assemblymember Miguel Santiago
CA Latino Legislative Caucus
California State Assembly

Cc: Christy Bouma, Governor's Office, Legislative Affairs Secretary
Stuart Thompson, Governor's Office, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary
Assemblymember Mark Stone

SM: OPEIU 29 AFL CIO