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LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS
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California State Senate

SENATOR
NOREEN EVANS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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June 14, 2012

Chairman Mary Nichols
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: **Cap-and-trade investments in sustainable agriculture**

Dear Chairman Nichols and the CARB Board:

I am writing you as the Chair of the Senate Select Committee on California Food: Local, Organic and Sustainable Systems. One of the major goals of my committee is to develop policies that promote sustainable agriculture.

I believe that investment in agricultural activities which meet the objectives of AB 32 is just such a policy. I strongly support investing a portion of the cap-and-trade fee revenues in agricultural activities which reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Potential greenhouse gas emission reductions in agriculture are substantial. The Legislature has been actively engaged in developing policies that will help California farms and ranches be innovators in renewable energy and energy efficiency, if funding is available. On-farm conservation practices such as reducing synthetic nitrogen fertilizer use, cover cropping, compost applications, planting of perennial crops and trees, and enhanced rangeland management can reduce fossil fuel use and sequester carbon. Methane and N₂O emissions can also be reduced, with readily-available technology.

Cap-and-trade revenue should go towards agricultural research, grower technical assistance and financial incentives to support climate friendly agricultural practices that also provide environmental and health benefits, such as improved air and water quality.

Investing in sustainable agriculture will help overcome barriers for innovative producers who achieve real greenhouse gas emission reductions. The sooner this potential is recognized and unleashed, the greater the ability of the state's farms and ranches to provide needed climate solutions.

I strongly encourage you to include investments in sustainable agriculture in your investment plan for cap-and-trade revenue, and I look forward to working with you in the future to promote the objectives of AB32.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noreen Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Noreen Evans

Chair, Senate Select Committee on California Food: Local, Organic, and Sustainable Systems