



Statement to Media

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CCA President Speaks Out Against Governor's Decision To Cut Williamson Act Subvention Funding

SACRAMENTO – July 28, 2009 – After weeks of budget talks at the State Capitol and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's final signing of a 2009-2010 Budget today, CCA President Tom Talbot, DVM, a Bishop, Calif., beef cattle producer, made the following statement regarding the Governor's last minute line item veto of Williamson Act Subvention Funding.

“The California Cattlemen's Association is extremely disappointed in the Governor's unilateral decision to cut Williamson Act Subvention Funding, which is vital to farmers, ranchers and rural communities throughout the state of California. The retention of the Williamson Act for the current fiscal year was supported by both parties of the Senate and Assembly and it is unfortunate that the Governor's cut now puts family farms and ranches in jeopardy.

In this difficult budget year, CCA and other agriculture organizations have worked hard to ensure that Williamson Act Subvention Funding remained intact both for those who produce food in this state and for California's public, who enjoys open space and natural resources provided by rangeland. Not only is the Williamson Act the state's most broadly-supported conservation program, it also protects millions of acres of open space at a bargain rate to state government. During a critical economic time for our state and nation, the Williamson Act is a critical component of helping sustain California's number one economic driver – agriculture.”

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Founded in 1917, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) represents California's 1.78 billion dollar beef cattle industry in legislative and regulatory affairs, and remains the number one voice for the industry today. CCA is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which represents America's cattle farmers and ranchers.