January 17, 2017

Trump Tower

721 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10022

Dear President-Elect Donald J. Trump:

First, I’d like to congratulate you on your hard fought victory. As a “non-politician” local elected official who does not like campaigning, that was a truly extraordinary feat to beat the machine that was your opponent--and with far less resources. Very impressive.

As you can see from the letterhead, I am a county Supervisor on the Central Coast of California. I am also a fifth generation farmer on some of the same land settled in the 1860’s by my Great-Great Grandfather. Much like yourself, I have a sixth generation on the ranch learning how to take over the day to day operations, along with two of my brothers. The unfaltering support of my family enables me to serve in county government. My family farm, Adam Bros. Farming, Inc., and our associated companies, actively farms almost 2,000 land acres and 4,500 crop acres annually. We farm broccoli, lettuce, cauliflower and celery and have some beef cattle as well. We employ 400 people.

The reason I wanted to write to you today is to reinforce your opinions of California state government and its relationship with the federal government. Frankly, we have been conducting ourselves like children for decades. Such conduct has been enabled by the federal government and it has to stop.

California has 12 percent of the nation’s population but has 34 percent of the welfare cases. Over a third of the population of Santa Barbara County is on public assistance. These are staggering statistics, given the fact that California is a large agricultural state where much of the labor is “unskilled” or “menial,”-- meaning they are on the lower end of the pay scale. This does not mean that it’s not honest and necessary work that can lead to the ultimate improvement of people’s lives. Yet somehow, these jobs have been demonized. Agriculture is told to import, through the H2A program, workers who will do the jobs “Americans (on welfare) won’t do.” At the same time, there is no place to house these people (and employers must provide housing, food and transportation to H2A employees in addition to federally mandated wages) because of chronic, artificial housing shortages of our own making in the name of “preserving our environment” and not “inducing growth.” Thus, California is one of the highest cost of living states in the nation with one of the least dense populations.

We have been foolish with our water supplies. We have utterly failed to plan for a rational water future. Again, because we are afraid that if we create sufficient supplies of water, more people will come and our “view-shed” will change. We have also failed to rationally plan for transportation infrastructure and even the maintenance of the road system we have. We have done nothing but create massive amounts of debt and unfunded liability that our children and grandchildren will inherit.

By this letter, I am asking that you apply the great weight of the federal government to the state of California to make them realize their own ultimate failure to create a sustainable system of governance. There are a great many supporters of yours here in California. We suffer greatly in many ways under the rules imposed by these idiots. I am a devout proponent of the 10th amendment, as I know you are. But everything has its limits. Please do not abandon those of us in California who desire to make an honest living and have productive investments, especially in agriculture. We are a national security asset in that we are where much of the food, especially specialty crops such as winter vegetables, are produced in a very small area of three coastal, and a couple of inland, valleys.

I would offer you and your staff my availability and perspective at any time. You are in a unique position to cause some precipitating events in California that point out the folly of our state strategy and wake California citizens from their stupor. You are the only politician who has the balls (yes, I said it) to cause us to reexamine what we are doing. Virtually everybody else, top to bottom in the state of California, is so self-interested that they will only pay off the unions and environmentalists and send the bill to future generations. Please help us.

Sincerely,

***Peter L. Adam***

Fourth District Supervisor

Santa Barbara County

P.S. Abel Maldonado’s father worked his way up through our farm and created the success that started his children, one of whom is being considered for Secretary of Agriculture, today. I learned a lot from Mr. Maldonado Sr. I think Abel Jr. would be a great pick.