

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2023

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

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom, Chair Skinner, and Chair Ting,

As you consider the 2023-24 state budget, including the May Revision, I encourage you to consider relief for small farmers who have been impacted by recent flooding across the state.

As I'm sure you know well, many communities across the state are struggling following the devastating January and March storms. I have seen firsthand underwater farms in my District. These farmers and their workers face a long road to recovery. Many lost a planting season and must restore their lands after exposure to potentially contaminated water and sediment.

While I have fought for all available federal resources to be made available to California—and continue to fight for more—some farmers, including those who are undocumented, are ineligible for many federal programs. Other producers, especially smaller or newer ones, sometimes find it challenging to apply for or access assistance. Support from the state in many cases could be an essential lifeline for those who cannot access federal assistance.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's California Underserved and Small Producer (CUSP) Program has a successful track record in providing assistance following drought to disadvantaged, small producers. I specifically encourage you to consider providing additional funding to the CUSP Program and to expand the program to support farmers impacted by flooding and other disasters. I also encourage you to ensure that CUSP Program resources and assistance are available in Spanish and other languages.

I appreciate your attention to this request, and I look forward to continuing to work together to support California communities impacted by the recent, historic storms.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress