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January 22, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am writing to express my support for San Miguel Produce, Inc.'s application for a USDA Value-Added Producer Grant. The goals of this grant-funded program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income, which is directly accomplished in San Miguel Produce, Inc.'s proposed value-added mixed green product.

Accordingly, I am pleased to learn this project will boost awareness of California-grown leafy greens by promoting new value-added products and increasing returns to growers. This letter serves as my formal approval and endorsement of this project's proposed outcomes.

I believe this project is important and timely because input costs for growers in California will soon rise given mandatory minimum wage and agriculture overtime wage hikes. This project will help grower profitability by introducing more value-added products into new markets. I am pleased to support this application as San Miguel Produce's is an important leader of the leafy green industry and new market opportunities developed on its behalf would benefit the entire industry.

For these reasons, I urge you to give full and fair consideration to the San Miguel Produce, Inc.'s application for a USDA Value-Added Producer Grant, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress