

California State Senate

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September 13, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 1783 (Robert Rivas)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of AB 1783, which creates a new ministerial permitting process for farmworker housing located on agricultural land. While this bill purports to streamline and encourage the production of housing for agricultural workers, the exact opposite will actually occur.

The ministerial process provided by this bill would not be available unless the farmer turns operation of the housing over to a third party. Few farmers would be willing to do this as they would remain responsible for the housing and any liability claims associated with its operation. In addition, the bill prohibits state funding for housing utilized for H-2A employees. There currently is a critical shortage of agricultural workers, and the H-2A program is the only solution to this shortage. Eliminating the access for California farmers to the Joe Serna Agricultural Worker Housing program is counterproductive to the housing shortage currently faced in our agricultural communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto of AB 1783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Grove". The signature is fluid and cursive.

SHANNON GROVE
Senate Republican Leader