



October 6, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, 9th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sasha Pérez  
President pro Tempore, California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom and President pro Tempore Pérez:

On behalf of the California Farm Bureau, we are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 38 (Dahle), the Agricultural Innovation Act of 2025. We believe this bill provides critical tools and incentives to help California growers remain competitive, resilient, and sustainable in the face of increasing pressures.

SB 38 establishes the Agricultural Innovation Grant Program at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), which would provide direct grants of up to \$20,000 per year to participating producers. Especially noteworthy is the bill's prioritization of small farms and socially disadvantaged farmers, helping to level the playing field for those who often have fewer means to adopt new technologies or practices.

One of the strengths of SB 38 is its reliance on the UC Agricultural Innovation Catalog to validate and verify eligible innovations. This ensures that funding supports practices and technologies backed by rigorous research. The bill also directs at least \$1.25 million annually to UCANR to maintain the catalog and provide technical assistance—a wise investment in long-term adoption, outreach, and support.

California's agricultural sector is confronting mounting challenges—rising input costs, water scarcity, regulatory complexity, climate volatility, and global market competition. To navigate these challenges, producers need access to proven innovations—new water practices, soil health systems, precision ag tools, pest control alternatives, carbon management strategies, and more. SB 38 strikes the right balance by making participation voluntary and incentive-based, not punitive, while reinforcing accountability through eligibility requirements and review standards.

As the backbone of California's food supply and rural economy, farmers and ranchers deserve legislative support that empowers, not penalizes. SB 38 sends a clear message: innovation is welcome, and we commit to helping producers adopt solutions that improve productivity, sustainability, and resilience.

For these reasons, the California Farm Bureau strongly endorses SB 38 and urges your favorable support and signature.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Shannon Douglass**  
President  
California Farm Bureau