



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 write to respectfully oppose Senate Bill 58 (Blakespear), the Surplus Crop Recovery and Redistribution Pilot Program. While we appreciate the goal of reducing food waste and helping communities in need, this bill creates serious problems for California farmers.

SB 58 would require the state to purchase surplus crops at 30 percent of the average market price. Unfortunately, this approach undervalues the cost of production and sets a harmful precedent for how crops are priced. Farmers already face tight margins with rising labor, water, and input costs. Being forced to sell at such a low rate would not be sustainable.

The program also puts too much responsibility on food banks and nonprofits for storage and distribution, without providing enough state support for those costs. These organizations are already stretched thin, and the bill would add new burdens without real solutions.

Additionally, limiting the program to Senate Districts 12 and 38 leaves out farmers in other parts of the state. California agriculture is diverse, and policies must reflect the needs of all growers, not just a few regions.

There are better ways to meet the bill's goals. Expanding existing tax credits for food donations, and supporting voluntary partnerships between farmers and local food banks, would achieve more without hurting farm operations. These approaches strengthen community ties and encourage ongoing generosity from farmers who are already committed to feeding people in need.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose SB 58 unless it is amended to provide fair compensation to farmers, support food banks with the resources they need, and apply evenly across California.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannon Douglass  
President  
California Farm Bureau