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September 17, 2026

Yolo County Board of Supervisors
625 Court Street, Room 204
Woodland, CA 95695

RE: Renewal of Williamson Act Contracts – STRONGLY SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors:

We received the annual notice regarding the public meeting on September 23rd to consider continuing the Nine-Year Contract terms for the Williamson Act Program. The Yolo County Farm Bureau strongly urges renewal of this vital program.

We recognize that continuing to implement the Williamson Act in Yolo County is not without cost, particularly since the State is not presently providing subvention funding and is leaving counties in the position of reckoning with this public program's fiscal dimension. However, the public benefits of the Williamson Act far exceed its costs. The Williamson Act has been a successful statute for nearly 60 years, and it is popular with landowners and the public because it pursues the goals of orderly development and the protection of agriculture and open space lands through voluntary means.

In exchange for tax assessments which reflect the agricultural value of land, participating landowners contractually promise to maintain thousands of acres in productive agriculture across Yolo County. In addition to serving the public benefits articulated by the Legislature in the Williamson Act, here in Yolo County that also helps sustain a \$650+ million agricultural economy which provides stable employment for farmworkers, equipment suppliers, truckers, and related businesses throughout our community. Ultimately, Yolo County agriculture is able to produce food and fiber for the state, nation and world while preserving the rural character that defines our county's identity.

In sum, the Williamson Act represents a partnership that protects Yolo County's agricultural heritage as a legacy landscape for the future, while supporting economic sustainability and orderly growth. While we understand the fiscal impact of the program, we believe the long-term economic, environmental, and cultural benefits to Yolo County continue to justify this investment.

We sincerely appreciate the Board's continued commitment to this program and urge its renewal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Lee Smith
President
Yolo County Farm Bureau