

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor John J. Benoit
Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: May 29, 2012

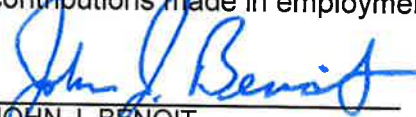
SUBJECT: Support for AB 1516, reform for licensing agricultural vehicles

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors directs:


1. That the County Executive Officer direct county lobbyists in Sacramento to express support for the passage and signing of AB 1516.
2. That the County Executive Officer use resources at his disposal to encourage all 28 cities of Riverside County, water districts, special districts, and non-governmental organizations to express support for AB 1516.
3. That the County Executive Officer use the resources of the Economic Development Agency, the Office of Foreign Trade, and the Office of the County Agricultural Commissioner to advocate for the passage AB 1516.

BACKGROUND: Riverside County is the proud home to over 1700 farming operations which produce approximately \$1 billion in annual agricultural production. The Riverside County farming industry ranks as one of the county's top employment opportunities, and it is estimated that crop values and economic impact of farming operations in Riverside County eclipse \$3 billion annually. Agricultural and ranching products are exported to 67 nations, making Riverside County a significant partner in the effort to feed those nations along with our own.

Reform of licensing and permitting of motor vehicles used in agricultural applications is in need of sweeping change. Support for AB 1516 means an increase to the gross Combined Vehicle Weight Rating threshold, from 26,000 to 28,500 pounds. It provides an exemption for pickup trucks with a flatbed configuration from commercial permitting and ensures that newer pickup trucks with a CVWR up to 14,000 pounds remain exempt from commercial permitting. The California Farm Bureau and a number of farming advocacy groups support the passage of AB 1516. It is the intent of the co-authors of this document to support the agricultural, ranching, and wine industries in recognizing the valuable contributions made in employment and economic development in our county by these industries.



JOHN J. BENOIT
Supervisor – Fourth District



JEFF STONE
Supervisor – Third District

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