



Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

December 23, 2020

Congressman Salud Carbajal
CA District 24
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: COVID-19 Vaccines – Priority Status for our Agricultural Community

Dear Congressman Carbajal,

As our 2020 year draws near end, I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Thanks to the urgent action of the Trump administration, Operation Warp Speed has delivered what was promised—a COVID-19 Vaccine. This unprecedented vaccine development is a result of our nations scientific and technological abilities coupled with the cutting of bureaucratic “red tape.” While you may not agree fully with the current administration, I think we can all agree this vaccine is a sigh of relief and a hope for future normalcy. And some mentioned above have already benefited from receiving the first round of doses.

The frontline and healthcare workers earned their spot for the priority of the vaccine distribution. They fearlessly have cared for sick Americans. However, as the states begin to decide who is next on the priority list, I hope you strongly consider Agriculture as a most essential service, and thus offer priority of vaccinations to this sector.

While many businesses were forced to shut down during the pandemic, one fact remained constant. Food was still being produced, harvested, and distributed by the agricultural/transportation sectors. This provided continual sustenance for fellow Americans during these uncertain times.

I am writing to you for the consideration to include farmers, ranchers, laborers, and transportation employees as a priority group for vaccination. Their importance compares to none, and in my opinion often gets overlooked. Here in California we are a leader in agriculture supplying both the United States and the World with specialty produce. The health and safety of our farming community should be a top priority.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

My Best,

Sheldon Bosio, President
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

Cc:

Monique Limon, State Senator, Dist. 19
Jordon Cunningham, State Assembly Dist. 35
Dianne Feinstein, US Senator, Dist. 14
Nancy Pelosi, US Representative, Ca Dist. 12