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March 14, 2022

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Chair, Assembly Agriculture Committee
1020 N St. Room 362
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: – SUPPORT, AB 1773 (Patterson) Williamson Act: Subvention Payments: Appropriation

Dear Chair Rivas,

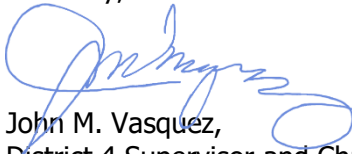
On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of AB 1773 (Patterson), which will restore funding in preserving the Williamson Act.

Since the enactment of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 also known as the Williamson Act, millions of acres of agriculture and open space land have been protected. Additionally, the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971 provided state funds to local governments that protect these lands instead of developing them and backfilled funds that would have come from development. But since 2009 no state funding has been allocated to these subvention payments, causing many local governments to not issue contracts for land conservation.

AB 1773 will reinstate funding to the Williamson Act that was ceased during the great recession and that has not been reinstated since. The bill would allocate \$40 million from the general fund to the Williamson Act for subvention payments.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support AB 1773 (Patterson) and ask that you vote aye when this bill is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,


John M. Vasquez,
District 4 Supervisor and Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Honorable Bill Dodd, Member, California State Senate
Honorable Tim Grayson, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Cecile Aguiar-Curry, Member, California State Assembly
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate