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Panelist Biographies for Assembly Committee on Agriculture's Environmental Farming Informational Hearing

Karen Ross was appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on January 9, 2019 by Governor Gavin Newsom. In re-appointing Secretary Ross, Governor Newsom cited her unmatched leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and here in California; including environmental stewardship, climate change adaptation, and trade. Secretary Ross was initially appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011.

Jason Mraz is a singer/songwriter whose songs are known around the world. He is also an avocado producer among other specialty subtropical fruits. What began as a hobby interest in agriculture in the early 2000's became a business in 2015 when Mraz saw the need to create a direct to consumer business to be able to compete in the marketplace. Mraz is a practitioner and advocate for organic & regenerative Ag.

Christine Gemperle has been farming almonds since 1998 although she was raised in an almond and poultry farming family in the Central Valley of California. Her educational background is in biology (BA, UC Santa Cruz) and fisheries (MS, Utah State University) with the scientific process and research having been the main attractant. Currently she and her brother, Erich, manage and operate 135 acres with no employees that places them in the unique position of intimately knowing every facet of their operation, from the mundane to the technologically advanced. Practical knowledge and feasibility combined with scientific advances and discovery are essential to solving problems in agriculture. Every choice made on the farm works towards the goal of developing a sustainable, efficient, and profitable farming operation that is part of the solution to climate change not the cause. Over the years Gemperle Orchards has hosted numerous studies related

to almond growing, whether it be deficit irrigation strategies, root stock trials or the benefits of cover crops. Christine serves as an alternate on the Almond Board of California, additionally participating on the Biomass Task Force and the Nutritional Research Committee. She have been a member of the Blue Diamond Growers Cooperative for almost 25 years where she serves as a grower liaison. Formerly she was a small scale beekeeper and acted as secretary for the Delta Bee Club for 7 years before she came to terms with how ridiculously hard beekeeping is. Currently she is a member of the CDFA Ad Hoc Advisory Panel for SWEEP. Most of all Christine enjoys being active and vocal in the agricultural community especially when it comes to promoting and sharing what she has learned about sustainable agricultural practices.

Doug Berretta was born and raised on the family dairy ranch in Santa Rosa where Doug worked all of my life. The ranch has been in his family since 1948 when his grandfather purchased it and moved his dairy cattle to Santa Rosa from Petaluma. Doug am the 3rd generation to own and operate the dairy. He graduated from Santa Rosa High School in 1981. That fall he attended Santa Rosa Junior College for two semesters majoring in Ag Business. Doug and his Sharon have three children, Jennifer 32, Lisa 31 and Ryan 28, and one grandson, Brayden who is 9 years old.

In 1996, Doug purchased half of our dairy herd from his father and became a partner in Beretta Dairy. In 2006, they transitioned the dairy to 100% organic and started shipping milk to Wallaby Yogurt Company until it was sold in 2015. They now ship our milk to Clover. In 2008, Doug purchased the remaining half of the dairy herd from his father and am now the sole proprietor of Beretta Family Organic Dairy. Sharon and kids are very active in the dairy and hope that they can continue dairying for many more generations.

In 1995, Doug became a Board Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, working his way through the ranks to become President in 2007 & 2008. He served on the Sonoma County Tiger Salamander Task Force as an agriculture representative for five years. At this time Doug am the Chairman of the Animal Resource Management Committee. This committee works hand and hand with Region #1 and Region #2 water Quality Boards dealing with manure management from all types of animal agriculture.

Doug am currently the 2nd vice president of Sonoma County Farm Bureau where he enjoy educating school children and adults about the dairy industry and the importance of agriculture in Sonoma County.

Dr. William R. Horwath has a distinguished career at UC Davis. He was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources in July'96 and was promoted to Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry in

July, 2004. Professor Horwath was appointed the James G. Boswell Endowed Chair in Soil Science in 2008. The Boswell Chair in soil science was established with a \$1.5 million gift from the James G. Boswell Foundation. The holder of the Endowment is expected to conduct research in soil science related to sustainable agriculture in California and provide leadership in integrating application of soil science principles to agriculture and natural resource challenges at farm and regional scales in California. Professor Horwath received the Soil Science Society of America Fellow award in 2009. The Fellow award is the highest recognition given by the society.

Professor Horwath's research record includes over 100 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters and over 15 million dollars in research grants from highly competitive State and Federal funding sources. Many of these funds have been used to advance the sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, climate change mitigation and environmental stewardship. He has been a leader in sustainable agriculture research at UC Davis, including the Sustainable Agriculture Farming Systems project for which he has been director since 2003.

Kat Taylor works in service of restoring social economic justice and environmental well-being to build a more equitable and inclusive world. She is active in a variety of social enterprises and philanthropic ventures focused on deep systems change. Currently, Ms. Taylor serves as Co- Founder and Board Chair of Beneficial State Bank, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and certified B Corporation whose mission is to bring beneficial banking to low-income communities in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner – and to change the banking system for good. Ms. Taylor believes it's not enough to dream that philanthropic resources can clean up damage to our society after the fact; we must instead align fundamental institutions, including business, and government, with the public interest in the first place.

Ms. Taylor is the owner of TomKat Ranch and the Founding Director of TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation (TKREF), dedicated to inspiring a sustainable food system through ranching best practices, training, educational tours, scientific research, and school food and garden programs. TKREF owns the social enterprise LeftCoast GrassFed, humanely raising cattle and other livestock for the benefit of healthy soils. She serves and has served, on many nonprofit boards including, Ecotrust, Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, ProPublica, the Community Development Bankers Association (CDBA), Forager, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (CREEJ), EVRNU, and CuriOdyssey. Ms. Taylor graduated from Harvard College and earned a JD/MBA from Stanford University. She has four grown children, each pursuing their one wild and precious life too.