



Welcome Summit Participants:

On behalf of our Summit sponsors, we extend our sincere appreciation to each of you for your participation in the *Solano and Yolo Counties Joint Economic Summit*. Your input is critical to adding more value to our agriculture and bringing more quality jobs to the region.


Our work today will focus on expanding the full spectrum of economic activity related to agriculture from seed to table– from before the crops get into the fields to the goods and services used in farming to the value-added processing that converts our crops into consumer goods. Today that chain of activity represents \$2.5 billion in economic impact or roughly 10 percent of the gross domestic product of our two counties. We know it can and should be much bigger. With your help today we will craft some strategic action plans to push aside any barriers to growing agriculture and the food chain cluster in our counties.

This event reflects a dynamic strength of our two counties – industry, business, community, and government leaders working together to address areas of common concern. Nothing is more shared in this region than our interest in sustaining a thriving agriculture industry. We also know it is important for us to shape our own destiny by creating the opportunities for grower contracts, local processors and all the support businesses that will expand our economic footprint in the region.

There are several organizations to thank for making this day possible. Collaborative Economics and the Agriculture Issues Center are responsible for compiling the comprehensive analysis of our two counties. Together, their studies form the solid information basis for our discussions today. We would also like to thank the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Seed Central, California Seed Association and the University of California, Davis for bringing their expertise to our discussion. And, of course, a special thank you to our event sponsors: University of California, Davis, Solano Economic Development Corporation and First Northern Bank.

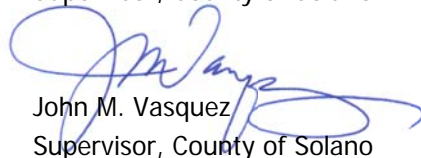
Together, we must engage in building strategies that will preserve, promote and expand our agricultural industry and all of the value it brings to our communities. Thank you for your commitment to our shared future.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Reagan

Supervisor, County of Solano



John M. Vasquez

Supervisor, County of Solano



Duane Chamberlain

Supervisor, County of Yolo



Don Saylor

Supervisor, County of Yolo