

August 7, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1642 (Chesbro), Pest Control: Pierce's Disease**  
**POSITION: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) is pleased to advise you of its support for AB 1642 (Chesbro) and respectfully requests your signature. CAWG is pleased to cosponsor this important measure which would reauthorize the Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP) operating under the purview of the Department of Food and Agriculture. AB 1642 extends the current authorization for the assessment to fund research and outreach on Pierce's Disease and its vectors to March 1, 2021 provided the grower community votes in the affirmative to extend the program. Extension of the PDCP allows the Department of Food and Agriculture to continue funding programs and research for activities related to Pierce's Disease, the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, and other designated pests and diseases that affect winegrapes and vines.

The 4,600 growers who comprise the California winegrape industry represent the foundation of an incredibly successful and important economic sector. For this reason, it is vital to protect this multi-billion dollar industry from the spread of Pierce's Disease, its vectors, the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter. Failure to contain these and other invasive pests and diseases pose a great threat to the economic vitality of the winegrowing industry's ability to thrive, maintain international competitiveness, and maintain its marque status as one of the best-known industries in the state of California. We are pleased by the demonstrated success of the PDCP, which over the last decade has ensured funding and research for activities related to the control and eradication of the vine killing bacterium spread by the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter.

The PDCP has been proven to be a successful joint venture between industry and government. Through the industry assessment, growers make a commitment to generate revenue that in turn has attracted tens of millions of dollars of federal contributions to fund the fight against Pierce's Disease. Federal funds have primarily been focused on preventing the spread of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter or managing the pest in areas where it already exists. Alternatively, industry funds go primarily to support research seeking long-term solutions to Pierce's Disease. While millions have been invested to protect the industry from the threat of this invasive pest, much work remains to be done, which is why the extension of the PDCP through AB 1642 is essential.

CAWG is pleased to join the Family Winemakers of California and the Wine Institute in cosponsoring this measure and respectfully requests your signature. Please contact me should you have any questions and or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Brenda M. Coleman  
Director of Government Relations

cc: The Honorable Wesley Chesbro  
The Honorable Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Mr. Gareth Elliot  
Ms. Martha Guzman-Aceves  
Ms. Heidi Scheid, CAWG Chairman  
Mr. Brad Goehring, Chair CAWG State Government Affairs Committee  
Mr. Jackson R. Gualco and Ms. Kendra Daijogo, The Gualco Group, Inc.