

## Eshoo, Farr and Boxer Urge End to Unfair Bans on California Agriculture

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Washington, D.C. -- A trio of California's Congressional leaders today urged Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman to provide immediate assistance in protecting California's nursery industry from unjust bans on California agricultural goods imposed by Florida and other states.

The nursery industry is a \$2.35 billion business for California. Growers in 12 California counties, including San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey, are currently required to demonstrate that their products are free from the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death (SOD) before they can ship their products. The bans imposed by several states, however, do not recognize this effort. These bans go far beyond reasonable limits and include shipments from disease-free nurseries and species that cannot even host the SOD pathogen.

"Nurseries that abide by USDA regulations and ship plants free of this pathogen should not have markets closed to them by states that seem to be erecting barriers not based on science, but on economic protectionism," said a letter to Secretary Veneman which was signed by Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Palo Alto), Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel), and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

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