

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We write to request the immediate assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in relation to the Del Monte processing facility closure in Modesto, California. As a result of this closure, countless peach growers are facing widespread contract cancellations and lack a viable avenue to mitigate their losses.

The Del Monte facility processed a substantial share of the state's canned fruit production, including more than 30 percent of California peaches. With no comparable alternative processing capacity available, producers are facing severe uncertainty and financial hardship. These growers have long supplied the nation with nutritious and delicious fruit, and without USDA action, these growers will have nowhere to turn to maintain their livelihoods. Our domestic producers already face a multitude of challenges, and it is critical that we use available federal resources to preserve these farmers' ability to produce healthy, fresh food for Americans.

- We respectfully request that USDA utilize its authorities to stabilize affected producers and communities. More specifically, we request that USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service provide \$9 million to help growers transition to another permanent crop, that the Department's existing disaster and market disruption programs (e.g., Farm Service Agency's Tree Assistance Program) be made maximally accessible to impacted growers, and that technical assistance and economic development support be provided to affected communities.

Many impacted growers are multi-generational family farmers who have invested decades in orchards built around stable processor relationships. These operations anchor local employment and regional economies. Without a proper response, there is a risk of long-term structured damage to our nation's agricultural base.

We look forward to working closely with USDA to swiftly identify and implement practical solutions. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



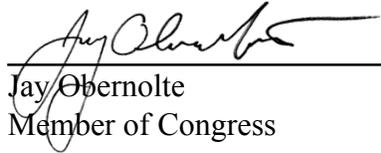
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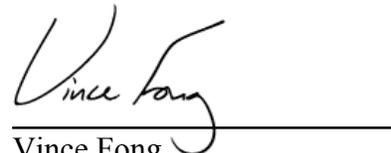
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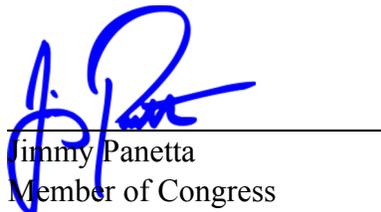
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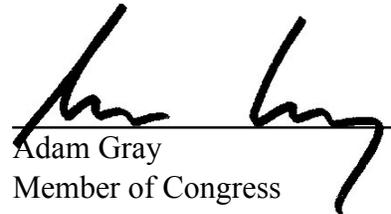
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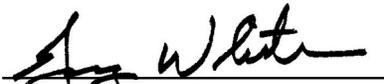
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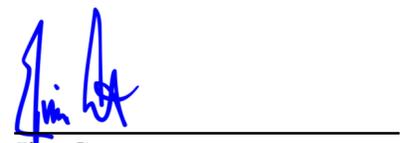

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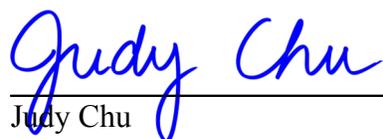
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