



**Robert Rickman**  
Board of Supervisors  
Representing the Fifth District

SCOTT TYRRELL  
Legislative Assistant

44 N. San Joaquin St.  
Suite 627  
Stockton, CA 95202  
Ph: 209-468-3113  
Fax: 209-468-2189

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The Honorable Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu  
Embassy of India  
2536 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu:

I write to you on behalf of my constituents, which includes a very large Indian community, who stand in strong support of farmers in India, and are deeply concerned about the effects of recent agriculture reforms made by the Government of India.

Here, in San Joaquin County, agriculture is our economy's top industry and is as integral to our future as it is to our region's legacy. In India, the agriculture economy is a main source of livelihood for over 55% of India's population and accounts for approximately 15% of their gross domestic product. As it is in our County, agriculture is a critical part of India's economy and culture.

New regulations that have been set forth have caused widespread apprehension amongst India's 86% of cultivated farmland that is controlled by small area farmers who own less than 5 acres (2 hectares) of land. Small farmers fear that they will not have enough bargaining power upon negotiations to sell their produce to large corporations. Farmers are seeing a rise in prices of fertilizers and seeds over the years, of which those commodities are sold by the private sector.

I represent a diverse set of farmers, which includes Sikh farmers. I know of the difficulties and burdens California farmers face due to regulations imposed by our state government. I respectfully request your efforts to ensure the concerns of thousands of farmers in the states of Punjab and Haryana are heard and consideration is given to the hardships they may endure as a result of impacts of the aforementioned agriculture reforms. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Rickman  
Supervisor, Fifth District  
San Joaquin County

DTG: 04321/01ST

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles), the character of an honest man."

- George Washington -