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California State Senate

SENATOR
SCOTT WILK
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION



September 9, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 616 (Stone)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 616 (Stone), which authorizes an undemocratic "representation ballot card election," more commonly known as "card check," for purposes of unionizing agricultural workers and electing a union.

This measure would violate a farmworker's sacred right to vote in secret, which is a fundamental tenet of democracy. Without the protection of a secret ballot, there are no effective means to ensure free choice in the voting process.

In fact, the card check process is ripe with opportunities for union organizers to inappropriately pressure workers into joining the union. Under this process, union organizers can approach farmworkers in person and ask them to sign a card representing their vote for the union. Because these representatives will know how the workers voted, the workers would be more susceptible to intimidation, coercion, and threats of retaliation.

Finally, there is nothing wrong with the existing election process. If a majority of workers at a workplace desire to unionize, they can simply vote for it at the worksite in a polling place provided by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. The process is very fair and convenient. It also ensures the true will of a majority of the workers relative to their desire to belong to a union.

For these reasons, I stand with farmworkers and farmers, and respectfully request your veto. If you have any questions about my request, please contact my Legislative Director, Baltazar Cornejo at 916-651-4021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Wilk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Wilk
Senate Republican Leader