



I have been a lifelong resident of the central valley and I am very aware of the challenges that we face in the valley. I've witnessed acre after acre of the world's best soil be covered by homes and commercial building. The farmers that remain struggle to make a profit despite working long, tiresome days. I am also a small business owner and know how difficult it is to turn a profit in the current economic situation, especially after overcoming the obstacles of governmental red tape and paying taxes to the city, county, state, and federal government. It is nearly impossible to make a decent living anymore as a small business owner. This proposal would dramatically increase the cost of business for the farm owner and in many circumstances would put them out of business. I have witnessed business after business flee downtown Stockton because the cost of doing business in an overly regulated market is simply too high. If we can keep the costs of business down then people can afford to open new business rather than rely on others to employ them. Even in the best case scenario, the farmers would pass those costs on to their customers.

The people that are truly hurt by the increased costs are your average, everyday residence because not only will their water bills go up but their food prices will increase as well. Even small business owners that aren't farmer will either lose profit or have to pass the costs on to their customers because every bill that we pay as business owners effects the profitability of the business. Your average citizen will also likely have to relandscape their homes and change their style of life because there will not be enough water to go around. What happens as the valley continues to grow? Where do we get water for those people?

Most importantly, we are destroying natural resources that I was able to enjoy as a child. Our children are not going to be able to see mile after mile of farmland, experience rushing rivers, or enjoy the full and beautiful lakes that I enjoyed as a child. Limiting growth in already overcrowded areas is not a bad thing. This country is huge. There are plenty of places to build homes where water is plentiful. We do not have to destroy the best farmland in the world.

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