



California State Senate

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

February 14, 2013

Honorable President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We the undersigned members of the California State Senate join in support of the nomination of Mr. Fred Ross Sr. (1910-1992) for the posthumous award of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

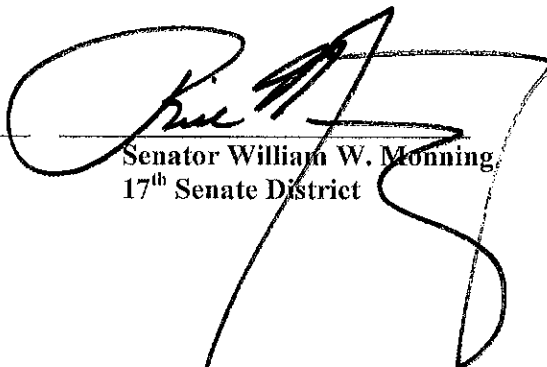
Fred Ross Sr. led a life of service committed to training organizers, including but not limited to, the founders and leaders of the Community Service Organizations (CSOs); the United Farm Workers Union's founders and early leaders Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, Gilbert Padilla, Richard Chavez, Marshall Ganz, Mack Lyons, Eliseo Medina, Jessica Govea, Pete Velasco, and Phillip Veracruz. His legacy extends to countless numbers of community organizers whose common bond has been the advancement of social, racial, political, and economic justice in the United States and abroad.

From his work in the New Deal government labor camps organized in the Central Valley of California during the Dust Bowl migrations profiled in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* to the organizing of the first successful farmworkers' union, Fred Ross Sr. taught others how to organize and lead. Fred perfected the art and science of community organizing through use of the "house meeting"; he recruited and taught community leaders how to find their voice and organize their power. His "Axioms for Organizers" represents a collection of short sayings that contain the essence of his teachings, teachings which he practiced while sacrificing personal or material gain to advance the greater cause of justice.

Fred Ross Sr. died in 1992, but his legacy lives strong among many of today's most important labor, community, and political leaders. By bestowing the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the memory of Fred Ross Sr., you acknowledge not only his sacrifices and contributions, but his living legacy. Thank you.

Respectfully,


Senator Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tempore


Senator William W. Monning
17th Senate District

Cc: Julie Rodriguez



Ricardo Lara

Senator Ricardo Lara, Chair
CA Latino Legislative Caucus

Ted M. Lieu

Senator Ted Lieu, Chair
Labor and Industrial Relations Committee

Signature

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Ricardo Lara

Printed Name

Ted Lieu

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Mary Black

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Hannah-Beth Jackson

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MARY BLACK

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HANNAH-BETH JACKSON

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Richard D. Ritt

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Jerry Hill

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RICHARD D. RITT

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Jerry Hill

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MARK D. S.E.
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De Saulnier
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Kevin de Leon
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KEVIN de Leon
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W. Rubio
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Michael Rubio
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16th
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F. Parley
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Fran Parley
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Ron Calderon
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Ron Calderon
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Lois Work
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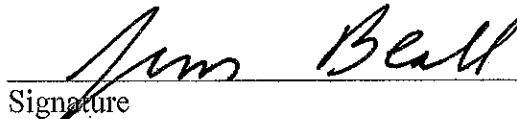
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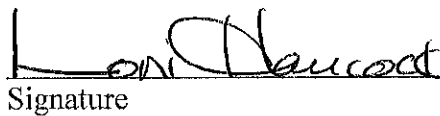
MARK LENO
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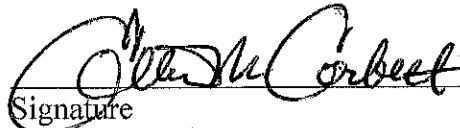
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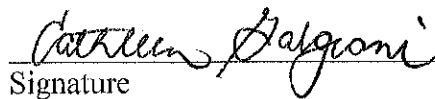
Loni Hancock
Printed Name

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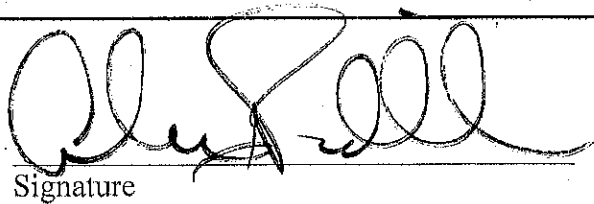
Ellen M. Corbett
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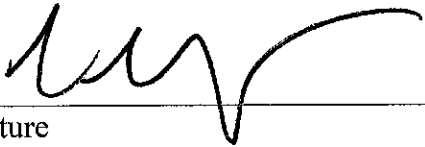
Cathleen Galgiani
Printed Name

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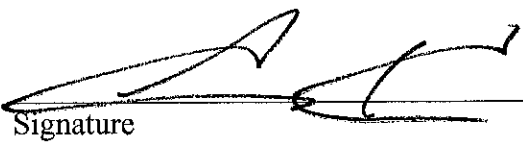
ALEX PADILLA
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LEONARD YELL
Printed Name

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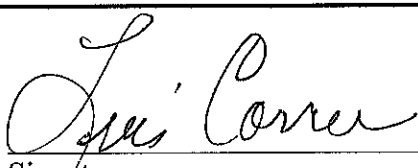
Ed Hernandez
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RODRICK WRIGHT
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Lou Correa
Printed Name

37th
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