

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SMALL BUSINESS

March 13, 2013

Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to recommend Mr. Fred Ross, Sr. to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is one of our nation's highest civilian honors. It recognizes individuals who have made "especially meritorious" contributions to the nation. Fred Ross's many contributions to the nation make him particularly well suited for such high recognition.

Fred Ross, Sr. spent his career fighting to improve the quality of life for Americans whose voices might otherwise have been lost. As an organizer of "Dust Bowl" refugees in the 1930s and 1940s, Japanese Americans during World War II, and African-Americans and Latinos in Southern California fighting against segregation, Mr. Ross dedicated his life to improving the fairness and equality of the United States. His career at the United Farmworkers Union as a mentor to Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta places him as one of the true leaders in the American labor movement.

I am confident that Mr. Ross would be a strong addition to the list of brilliant and inspiring men and woman who have previously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Thank you for your attention to this matter and I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator