October 4, 2021

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

I write in support of the Central Valley Community Foundation’s application for funding from the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) program, administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The Central Valley Community Foundation is submitting its application on behalf 40 regional and community partners from the Central Valley.

The Central Valley Community Foundation and its partner organizations are seeking BBBRC funding for the Fresno-Merced Future of Food Innovation (F3) proposal. The Central Valley is home to some of the most productive agricultural land in the nation. F3 aims to leverage the region’s existing concentration and expertise in sustainable food production and engineering to develop a “Climate-Smart Food and Agriculture Industry Cluster.” F3 strives to bring together the best of the regional economy to increase opportunities for Central Valley residents and businesses to expand, grow, and thrive.

F3 is a signature economic development initiative that is part of large-scale regional project called Fresno DRIVE. The goals of the BBBRC align with the Fresno DRIVE initiative, which is a 10-year plan to invest $4 billion in the Central San Joaquin Valley to create an inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable economy while also addressing the chronic economic, environmental, and inequitable conditions in the region.

I urge you to give the Central Valley Community Foundation’s application your full consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Fresno office at (559) 485-7430.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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