



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2022

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 490, which will require schools that receive federal funding for prepared meals to include a requirement in their bids and contracts that the agricultural food products purchased are grown, packed, or processed domestically, beginning in 2024. I was proud to have made universal, nutritious school meals a reality for California students. This Buy American policy will benefit the California agricultural industry and agricultural workers, as well as the students and teachers consuming these meals in our schools.

Agricultural products grown and processed in California and the United States meet more rigorous requirements for food safety, environmental standards, and worker protections. California is home to the best produce in the world - more than a third of the country's vegetables and three quarters of the country's fruits and nuts are grown in California. Signing this bill sends a message that California supports using our taxpayer dollars to purchase healthy, high-quality, and safe food products that also support reliable markets for our regional agricultural producers, processors, workers, and economies. This bill may result in additional costs beyond the funding for universal access to subsidized school meals provided in the budget. Any requests for additional resources to implement SB 490 will need to be reviewed and included in the annual budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom

