

WHEREAS, The World Resources Institute reports that over 300,000 farm workers are poisoned each year by chemicals used in agriculture; and

~~WHEREAS, When farm workers' rights are or are not enforced, it does not represent a momentary political advantage for one side or the other, but it means life or death for the poorest and most abused workers in the state of California; and~~

~~WHEREAS, This fight for the rights of farm workers is not a fight about ideology or philosophy or partisanship; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Juan Chabolla might be alive today if legislation that Senator Nicholas Petris has been trying to pass for the last 20 years, in the California Legislature, had been in effect; and~~

WHEREAS, Senator Petris' bill is Nicholas Petris introduced, in the California legislature, a modest proposal requiring growers to post warning signs in fields which have recently been sprayed with dangerous pesticides; and

~~WHEREAS, No signs were posted where Juan Chabolla was stricken on August 5, 1985; and~~

WHEREAS, The Petris bill was finally passed by the California Legislature in September 1985; and

~~WHEREAS, On October 2, 1985, less than 2 months after Juan Chabolla died, the growers had Governor Deukmejian veto the bill; and~~

WHEREAS, On October 2, 1985, California agribusiness had Governor Deukmejian veto the bill; and

WHEREAS, The California Agriculture Labor Relations Board has ceased to be a vehicle to help farm workers improve their lives; and

WHEREAS, Since the 1960's, the United Farm Workers of America have helped thousands of farm workers win protection from toxic pesticides and many other benefits; and

WHEREAS, The gains won by the United Farm Workers are being undermined; and

WHEREAS, The United Farm Workers of America, under the leadership of Cesar Chavez, have ~~call~~ called for a new boycott of nonunion fresh grapes; and

~~WHEREAS, Across North America, state and federal lawmakers, mayors and city councils, labor and religious leaders, minorities, students, and consumers are taking the grape boycott pledge and spreading the word; and~~