

**ERIN HANNIGAN**

District 1, (707) 553-5363

**MONICA BROWN**

District 2, Vice-Chair, (707) 784-3031

**WANDA WILLIAMS**

District 3, Chair Pro-Tem (707) 784-6136

**JOHN M. VASQUEZ**

District 4, Chair, (707) 784-6129

**MITCH MASHBURN**

District 5, (707) 784-6030

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS****SOLANO  
COUNTY****BILL EMLIN**County Administrator  
(707) 784-6100675 Texas Street, Suite 6500  
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342  
Fax (707) 784-6665[www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5144  
Sacramento, CA 95814**RE: SUPPORT, AB 402 – Broomrape Control Program**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of AB 402 which will establish a Broomrape Control Board within the Department of Food and Agriculture to provide California's tomato industry with necessary resources to manage the parasitic noxious weed broomrape.

Broomrape species are some of the worst agricultural weeds in the world causing crop production losses of 20-80 percent in infested fields. Branched and Egyptian broomrape, both introduced into California from the Mediterranean region and regulated as Federal and California noxious weeds, have the potential to infest and degrade many common rotational crops grown in Solano County but are particularly devastating to tomatoes.

Solano County growers produce nearly 500,000 tons of processing tomatoes annually at a gross value of \$44 million. This robust harvest supports the Campbell Soup Company's processing facility in Dixon and other regional processors. Broomrape's recent reemergence in Solano and other counties after decades of eradication, if left unabated and unmanaged, will severely impact the ability of growers to farm tomatoes in California and in turn, jeopardize the state's processing industry.

Solano County growers understand the threat of the parasitic noxious weed broomrape very well. In 2014, 2016 and 2021, farmers were forced to destroy tomato crops and implement lengthy and costly eradication procedures after finding Egyptian broomrape in their fields. To date, Solano County is the only county in the country with confirmed occurrences of Egyptian broomrape. As such, Solano has been at the forefront of University of California Cooperative Extension, UC Davis, and California Department of Food and Agriculture broomrape research and regulatory restrictions.

The annual fee assessment to be paid equally by growers and processors, research, early detection and treatment measures proposed in AB 402 will provide the tomato industry with necessary tools to effectively manage broomrape and help sustain local agricultural economies into the future. For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support AB 402 and would like to thank you for your authorship of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Vasquez".  
John M. Vasquez, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

March 3, 2022

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**CC:**

The Honorable Bill Dodd, Senator

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, Assemblymember

The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors

Ed King, Solano County Agricultural Commissioner

Karen Lange, SYASL Partners