



Contact: Dave Heylen, V.P. Communications
Tel: 916.448.3545 • FAX 916.448.2793
Website: www.cagrocers.com
E-mail: dheylen@cagrocers.com

California Grocers Association
1215 K Street, Suite 700
Sacramento, CA 95814

**CALIFORNIA GROCERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT RONALD K. FONG
RELEASES STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO
GOVERNOR BROWN'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

SACRAMENTO, CA (JANUARY 18, 2012) — *"We are encouraged by Governor Brown's continued commitment to reducing California's structural deficit. We look forward to working with the Administration and policymakers and eagerly await the return of an economic climate that allows grocers to increase hours for their existing employees and hire additional workers, to reinvest in their existing stores and expand into new areas of the State."*

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The California Grocers Association is a non-profit trade association representing the food industry since 1898 and represents approximately 500 retail members operating over 6,000 food stores in California and Nevada.