

Unbelievable, although not surprising. A true lack of leadership. I have no problem with raising concerns with any proposal, but it's frustrating when someone blasts a legitimate effort to actually put together a solution, with no alternative solution in mind. What is Tom proposing we do? Just stick with the status quo?

As for Tom's claim that Rep. Costa ignored CDI's concerns, that's just untrue. CDI, WUD, LOL, Holstein Association (Doug and Steve Maddox) and MPC spent three hours on January 8th in Rep. Costa's office going through about 15-20 points raised by WUD and CDI about the bill. Tom Mendes was at the meeting, so he knows this, which makes it even worse that he would be quoted in a news article saying CDI's concerns were ignored. We had thorough discussion on each issue that was raised, and some concerns were addressed by making changes to the bill language while others were discussed and found no consensus amongst the groups in the room.

I recognize that each of those boards that were represented in the meeting are within their rights to oppose the bill, even after the January 8th meeting. But to say that Costa ignored CDI or WUD and their concerns is patently false. WUD's CEO Mike Marsh tried to make this an issue in the *Hanford Sentinel* last week, and as you can see from the attached summary of the discussion of that January 8th meeting, all 11 of the concerns raised by WUD about Rep. Costa's bill were discussed thoroughly. The facts simply don't back up what Tom and Mike are saying.

Anyway, this is why the June 2nd townhall meeting in Tulare is so important. Producers need to hear what is in H.R. 5288. They shouldn't have to sift through the various publications and try to figure out if their industry leaders are fairly portraying the bill. Once producers hear what's actually in the bill, they can make up their own minds about whether or not it merits their support.

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