# California State Legislature



#### **RURAL CAUCUS**

### Assemblymember Jean Fuller, Chair Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani, Vice Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 15, 2015

### (916) 319-2032

**CONTACT:** Jennifer Franklin

# Fuller Elected Chair Of State Legislative Rural Caucus

(Sacramento) – Assemblymember Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield) announced today that she has been elected Chair of the California State Legislative Rural Caucus. The Caucus is a bipartisan group of Assemblymembers and Senators formed to promote the interests of rural regions of California.

"I am honored to have been chosen by my colleagues to chair the Rural Caucus," said Fuller. "This group allows legislators from both houses and both political parties to focus on the challenges that are unique to rural Californians."

The Rural Caucus provides a strong, united voice in the state legislature for residents of rural communities. Caucus members author legislation, fight for rural California's fair share of the state budget, and foster partnerships with key stakeholders in state and local government.

"The Caucus plays an important role in educating our colleagues from urban counties who do not understand the issues facing rural areas of the state," said Fuller. "These communities often carry the burden of unequal education funding, little choice in health care, and few incentives for business."

"I am thrilled that Assemblymember Fuller is the new Chair of the Rural Caucus," said Assembly Republican Leader Mike Villines, the former Caucus Chair. "She will be a powerful voice for rural Californians and will work aggressively to advocate for issues that improve and protect the quality of life in our communities."

Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani (D-Stockton) was elected as Vice Chair of the Caucus, and Assemblyman Tom Berryhill (R-Modesto) was elected Secretary.

"I look forward to working with my fellow Legislators representing rural districts," stated Galgiani. "This year the Rural Caucus will have an historical opportunity to secure funding from the State Infrastructure Bonds and ensure that rural communities receive their fair share."

The Rural Caucus consists of 43 members representing both houses of the Legislature and both political parties. The members unite on issues vital to the rural regions of California, including much of the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Assemblymember Fuller represents the 32nd Assembly District, which includes Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, Taft, Kern River Valley and the Frazier Mountain communities.