Growth Management Myths

MYTH #1 : An abundance of cheap food would benefit American consumers and reduce hunger.

Unfortunately, surplus food doesn't equate to feeding more people. These days hunger is caused by poverty, not by food scarcity. So even though there is plenty of food on supermarket shelves, people go hungry because wages have not kept pace with inflation. Some of the very same food processing and retail companies who are paying farmers so little also pay workers so little that they can't afford to feed their families.

MYTH #2: Growth Management is incompatible with "feeding the world" through exports.

In reality, farmers and local food systems all over the world have been displaced by a flood of cheap commodities, contributing to poverty and food insecurity. It was never about feeding the world; it has always been about padding the pockets of the agribusiness industry. If we want to make sure the world is fed, our trade agreements must include fair wages for workers and pro-farmer policies like growth management.

MYTH #3 Growth Management means "Big Government" controlling farmers and our food supply.

The truth? Farmers have become *more* dependent on government subsidies since the 1970's.

Getting a fair price from the marketplace by balancing supply with demand actually makes farmers less dependent on the government. Rather than relying on taxpayers to bail farmers out when the market is flooded, we need Congress to create a program such as the Dairy Revitalization Plan that prevents flooded markets in the first place.

THE BOTTOM LINE:
All of these myths are just a smokescreen for the real reason that the government abandoned Growth Management: big agri-business corporations with well-funded lobbyists want to buy cheap commodities from farmers, and sell them at a steep markup to consumers. And who is left to bear the cost? The environment, taxpayers, farmers, workers, and rural communities.

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