



California Rice

It's in our Nature

January 6, 2026

Statement on the passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa

“We are devastated to learn of the passing of Congressman Doug LaMalfa. Northern California could not have asked for someone who cared more deeply about its communities and its farms than Doug,” said Tim Johnson, CEO of the California Rice Commission.

Doug was one of the early members of the California Rice Commission board, representing Butte County, as the organization met in its formative years to address grower representation, rice straw burning, water quality and public outreach. He even chose a California Rice Commission grower meeting in 2000 to announce his run for the California Assembly, where he served for six years before moving on to the California Senate.

As vice chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, he was a steadfast champion for Northern California’s rural and resource issues. When longtime Congressman Wally Herger retired, Doug ran for Congress and took his passion for rural communities, agriculture and natural resources to Washington, D.C.

“Throughout his many years of public service, Doug will be remembered for his kindness and his willingness to engage others to find common ground and real solutions,” said Tim Johnson, CEO of the California Rice Commission.