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Evans First U.S. Elected Official Delegate to International Slow Food Conference

(SACRAMENTO, CA) Assemblymember Noreen Evans (D-Santa Rosa) will be the first American elected official to be a delegate to the biennial international conference of the Slow Food movement.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about sustainable agricultural practices from people around the world,” said Evans. “I’m eager to promote our own environmentally and socially responsible business practices and to learn from others around the globe. Farmers in Napa and Sonoma are already on the cutting edge of American sustainable agricultural practices, including the use of fish-friendly farming practices and biodynamic farming. I look forward to bringing back new ideas, practices and standards that we can adopt to do an even better job.”

The 2008 conference, called Terra Madre, will occur in Turin, Italy from October 23-27, 2008. It will bring together food producers, cooks, academics, and youth to increase small-scale, traditional, and sustainable food production. At the conference, Evans will be staying with an international group of winegrape growers and attending seminars with them about the wine industry worldwide.

Evans, along with Congressman Mike Thompson (D-St Helena), was nominated by Slow Food Russian River to apply for the role as a delegate to this year’s conference. Evans is Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Wine and serves as a liaison between winegrape growers, the wine industry, and the State Assembly. She will be one of 500 U.S. delegates to travel to Turin this year. Since this role has never been given to an elected official by any of the 140 local chapters of Slow Food across the U.S., Evans’ nomination needed special approval of Slow Food USA to proceed.

“To effect change in the world, we need to affect the changemakers,” said Larry Martin, Governor for Slow Food in Northern California and a member of the 11-person Slow Food Russian River leadership team. “We need to get elected officials exposed to Terra Madre so they can help lead the charge towards a more sustainable future.”

Slow Food is a non-profit organization that supports a bio diverse sustainable food supply, local producers, and heritage foodways. Founded in 1986, Slow Food is an international movement with more than 80,000 members in 130 countries. **Slow Food Russian River** works to carry out the Slow Food mission at the local level. Along with Evans, it will be sending to Terra Madre, among others: Kate Wilson of Sky Saddle Wines, which makes wines from organically and/or biodynamically grown grapes in a state of the art environmentally-friendly facility; Joe Pozzi, fourth generation lamb farmer and Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Agriculturalist of the Year for 2007; and Lee and Shirley Walker of Walker Apple Ranch, which grows over 25 kinds of apples on 30 acres.

Evans’ role as delegate will occur after the first conference of Slow Food USA this August, in San Francisco. The event’s first day - called Changemakers Day - will convene hundreds of leaders in business, government, and the non-profit community to discuss sustainable food systems.

“As we are seeing more and more, our food supply is a global challenge,” concluded Evans. “With global

warming, we will need to adapt our local agricultural practices to new weather patterns. AB 32 means California must lead the way. Terra Madre is a unique opportunity to learn about new ways to adapt here in California. I am honored to have been selected.”

For further information, please visit <http://www.slowfoodrr.org>, <http://www.terramadre2008.org>, and <http://www.slowfoodnation.org>.

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