



May 23, 2013

The other Walmart

Re “Sacramento should keep its big-box ban” (SN&R Editorial, May 9):

I’d like to set the record straight on behalf of Walmart on local sourcing of products, including fresh groceries. We are proud of our 20-year history in the Sacramento Valley, and we want SN&R readers to have the facts, including the fact that Walmart is the largest purchaser of locally grown produce in the country, and we have made great strides to boost our work with small and mid-sized farmers through our Heritage Agriculture program.

Last year in California, we spent nearly \$21.5 billion for merchandise and services with thousands of suppliers, including regional businesses such as Lundberg Family Farms, Blue Diamond Growers and others. Additionally, this year we announced our commitment to purchase an additional \$50 billion in U.S. products over the next 10 years. We will grow U.S. manufacturing on two fronts: by increasing what we already buy here—in categories like sporting goods, apparel basics, storage products, games, and paper products, and by helping to onshore U.S. production in high-potential areas like textiles, furniture and higher-end appliances.

I invite your readers to take a look at our new campaign, www.therealwalmart.com, that addresses our dedication to offering our customers in the Valley and throughout the country the best value and quality jobs in these challenging times. Part of that value comes from sourcing products locally whenever possible.

Paul Shumate

market manager for seven Sacramento-area Walmart stores

<http://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/letters-for-may-23-2013/content?oid=9959572>