

2015 Agricultural Labor Relations Board Chairman
Confirmation Hearing

Statement of William B. Gould IV

February 11, 2015 at 1:30 PM

State Capitol, Room 113

Sacramento, California

Senate Rules Committee

Senator Kevin de León (Chair)

Senator Jean Fuller (Vice Chair)

Senator Anthony Cannella

Senator Connie M. Leyva

Senator Holly J. Mitchell

Senator de León and other distinguished members of the Senate Rules Committee, my name is William Benjamin Gould IV and with me here is my wife, Hilda Elizabeth Gould. My three sons and four grandchildren who all reside in the Los Angeles area could not be here given their schedules and the distance involved.

With me also are Karen Snell, a distinguished San Francisco lawyer, Stanford Law School '81 and Eduardo Blanco, my Senior Legal Advisor.

I am here today so that, if confirmed by the Senate, I may have the chance to give back to California some portion of what this state has given to me and my family since we settled here in 1972. I am honored to have been appointed by Governor Brown as Chairman of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and to appear before you this day as his nominee.

It was more than 21 years ago that I appeared before the United States Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee as President Clinton's nominee to be Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board. I feel fortunate to be able to use that experience and more than a half century of work as a labor and employment law academic, arbitrator and practicing labor lawyer to be able to serve California.

I am aware that this challenge is equally formidable to my service in Washington D.C. where, as Chairman for four and one half years, I fostered prompt enforcement of the law and attempted to enhance dialogue between the parties. I am committed to use my time here in Sacramento to make the Agricultural Labor Relations Act a greater reality to farm labor and growers; to reach the forgotten, particularly undocumented and indigenous workers who toil in our fields; to expedite our procedures so that delay will not deny justice for those who appear before us; and to listen carefully to all within our jurisdiction and the public generally.

150 years ago, my great-grandfather William Benjamin Gould-having escaped slavery and served three years in the service of the United States Navy- completed his work for Uncle Samuel (as he called our Uncle Sam) in the War of the Rebellion. Now, in 2015, if I am confirmed, I will do the best that I can do to honor the people of California with the same commitment that he and his comrades demonstrated at that time.

Thank you very much. I welcome any questions or comments you may have for me.