



April 12, 2017

The Honorable Heath Flora
State Capitol, Room 3139
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1342 (Flora) – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Flora:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is a statewide organization that represents both farmers and non-farm urban residents who support sustainable food and farming policies. CAFF would like to express our support for AB 1342 (Flora), a measure that would continuously appropriate \$100 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to CAL FIRE for healthy forest programs, \$100 million to Cal Recycle for instate organic waste recycling projects, and \$100 million to Cal Recycle for other instate recycling projects.

CAFF is very supportive of the Healthy Soils program at CDFA and its intent to increase the use of compost in agriculture. However, to achieve this we must divert organics from landfills and increase the recycling of organic material into clean compost. This will have the effect of reducing GHG emissions, reducing the use of petro-based chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides) in agriculture and landscaping, reducing water consumption due to increased water holding capacity of soils, and creating “green” jobs in California.

California has set extensive goals of reducing greenhouse gases including short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon and methane. However, many departments and programs that aim to reduce greenhouses gases, including CAL FIRE and Cal Recycle, continue to lack proper funding to fulfill these goals. Cal Recycle has estimated at least \$3 billion of infrastructure investment must be made to accomplish our lofty organic waste diversion goals; with many experts agreeing that some public funding must be invested in the immediate future to help meet 2020 and 2025 targets.

AB 1342 supports and builds upon existing goals and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As long as the bill provides for a continuous appropriation of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds for Cal Recycle’s organics diversion efforts, we are in full support.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director