



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

April 17, 2017

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1348 (Aguiar-Curry) - Farmer Equity Act - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

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 is pleased to support your AB 1348, which will define “socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers” in accordance with federal definitions and will require CDFA to report on activities related to such farmers.

In our experience, many farmers and ranchers who are members of ethnic minority groups have a difficult time accessing government programs due to language and educational barriers. They are also often smaller family farms that do not have the time or funding to attend meetings. In order for them to submit applications to government programs they usually require culturally-specific technical assistance. We have seen this recently in the SWEEP program, where providing such technical assistance led to many applications. We are hopeful that similar technical assistance can be provided for the Healthy Soils program.

It would be useful for CDFA to report on their efforts in this regard and for that reason we support AB 1348.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director