



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

April 6, 2017

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

Re: AB 1503 (Aguiar-Curry) - 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 recently merged with the Farmers Guild, an organization of beginning and aspiring young farmers, and so we are particularly pleased to support AB 1503, which will remove a barrier to the expansion of accredited farmer training programs in the state.

Agricultural apprenticeship programs are critical to developing the next generation of farmers, farm managers, and agricultural workers. Participating in an agricultural apprenticeship will prepare aspiring farmers with sufficient hands-on experience, management training, and business skills to obtain a job with an established farm, or start their own farm upon completion.

Under the California Labor Code, any person or organization that recruits, solicits, supplies, or hires workers on behalf of an employer engaged in the growing or producing of farm products is considered to be a farm labor contractor. In order to encourage the widespread establishment of registered agricultural apprenticeships in the state, AB 1503 will narrowly exempt nonprofit organizations administering an accredited agricultural apprenticeship program from this farm labor contractor definition.

Allowing a nonprofit body to hold the administrative responsibilities of apprenticeship training programs will allow for increased flexibility. Apprentices would be able to transfer between farms without burdening the farmers with excessive paperwork. The current definition of farm labor contractors never contemplated this arrangement and CAFF is in strong support of AB 1503.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director