



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2106 (Garcia) -- SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Garcia:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is a statewide organization that represents both farmers and non-farm residents who support sustainable food and farming policies. CAFF is pleased to support your AB 2106, which will increase the state's institutional purchase preference for California-grown or processed agricultural products from five percent to 10 percent.

At least 15 other states grant preferences for the state purchase of their home-grown farm products. And while California's five percent preference was only enacted last year and is still being implemented by the Department of General Services, the increase to 10 percent in AB 2106 seems justified. There is no doubt that the cost of farming in California is higher than in other states for a variety of reasons, including some legislatively-enacted policies and requirements that CAFF supports. Our farmers should not be forced to choose between support for progressive social and environmental policies and their own economic viability. It is only fair for the Legislature to recognize these costs and to take reasonable steps to offset them. AB 2106 is one of those steps, and for that reason CAFF supports AB 2106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Runsten', written in a cursive style.

David Runsten
Policy Director