



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

May 3, 2015

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1045 (Irwin) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Irwin:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is pleased to support your AB 1045, which will promote the production and use of compost, particularly in agriculture. CAFF is a statewide organization of farmers and non-farm Californians who support policies to enhance the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of California agriculture. CAFF has long supported greater use of compost and other biological materials to enhance soil quality and improve pest resistance.

CAFF also supported AB 1826 (Chesbro), landmark legislation from 2014 that committed the state to diverting 50% of organic waste from landfills by 2020, because we believe that compost is an underused soil amendment and fertilizer in agriculture. Compost has many benefits to agriculture, including increased soil nutrition and tilth, increased water retention, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions compared to synthetic nitrogen fertilizers.

Your AB 1045 recognizes the importance of CalEPA shepherding implementation of policies among its boards and departments. CalRecycle, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Air Resources Board all are charged with implementing rules that will affect the state's ability to meet its waste diversion and composting goals. We strongly support your call for CalEPA to bring together these agencies to coordinate implementation of their rules in a manner that is most effective and efficient. This is especially important given the difficulties in some parts of the state in siting new compost production facilities.

We also support the explicit goal of reducing five million tons of GHG emissions annually through the use of compost on working lands. California agriculture has many opportunities to implement practices that will reduce and sequester

GHG emissions, and one of the most important and effective is the increased use of compost. This statutory goal will undergird CalEPA and the agencies when they consider measures to increase compost use. It also complements SB 367 (Wolk), which we are co-sponsoring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Runsten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Runsten
Policy Director