



April 13, 2015

The Honorable Phil Ting  
State Capitol, Room 3123  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1321 (Ting) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Ting:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is pleased to support your AB 1321, which will allow the Department of Food and Agriculture to access federal funds to improve the availability of nutritious foods from local outlets, with an emphasis on certified farmers' markets (CFMs) and other local nonprofit organizations that provide services to low-income individuals and families. California has already successfully piloted this model with its California Market Match program, which increases the value of CalFresh grants when used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from CFMs. AB 1321 will ensure that California can receive available matching funds from the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill, thereby increasing the reach and effectiveness of the California program.

CAFF has been a leading proponent of CFMs since their inception more than 30 years ago, because they allow farmers to sell directly to consumers and maximize net revenue. But CFMs also are an excellent value for consumers, especially low income persons who want to buy nutritious fresh foods and stretch their purchasing dollars. We applaud efforts by California and the federal government to incentivize greater use of direct markets to improve both food basket nutrition and purchasing power. Programs like these benefit California farmers and the communities they serve.

Thank you for introducing AB 1321. We look forward to working with you for its passage.

Sincerely,

David Runsten  
Policy Director