



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Devon Mathis
State Capitol, Room 2111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 202 (Mathis) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Mathis:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is a statewide organization that represents both farmers and non-farm allies who support sustainable food and farming policies and the long-term viability of California agriculture. CAFF is pleased to support your AB 202, which will extend the state's Safe Harbor Agreement program indefinitely.

The Safe Harbor Agreement program's 2020 sunset made sense when the program was created almost 10 years ago: while the program was innovative and promising, the state had no experience with the actual performance of the program. But now we do. The program has shown that it provides net benefits to protected species and regulatory assurance to farmers. In fact, one of the disincentives to its greater use by farmers is the sunset, which raises concerns about the continued applicability of the agreement in the event the program sunsets. By eliminating the 2020 sunset, AB 202 recognizes the success of the Safe Harbor Agreement program and creates an incentive for more farmers to enter into the agreements.

CAFF appreciates your introduction of AB 202 and is pleased to add our support.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director