

March 20, 2019

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

RE: AB 488 (Aguiar-Curry) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is pleased to support your AB 488, which adds the Secretary of Agriculture to the California Broadband Council. AB 488 brings a much-needed voice to the inter-agency council that will focus on the needs of agricultural and other rural residents of California.

CAFF is a statewide organization of farmers and their non-farmer allies who support policies that will enhance the long-term sustainability of California agriculture. Highspeed broadband service is an essential part of California's economic, civic and social life, but it is not effectively available in many rural areas where CAFF members live and work. This gap only widens the divide between rural and urban economies and further isolates rural families. We hope and expect that the Secretary of Agriculture will act as a representative for these Californians and their interests as the state determines how to best provide high-speed broadband service to underserved areas.

Sincerely,

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David Runsten Policy Director

cc: Assemblyman Miguel Santiago, Chair, Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance Members, Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance