



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Bill Dodd
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 62 (Dodd) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Dodd:

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 SB 62, which extends pending sunsets on the state's Safe Harbor Agreement program and its allowance of accidental take of protected species during routine and ongoing farming practices.

CAFF's farmer members support, and many are carrying out, farm management practices that improve environmental protections, including for protected species. But routine farming practices can occasionally lead to unanticipated taking of protected species, therefore the accidental take protection in current law is important to farmers. But it is also important for the state to know how often accidental takings occur, therefore we support the bill's requirement to report accidental takes to the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

We also support the extension of the sunset for the Safe Harbor Agreement program, which has proven its effectiveness since it was created in 2009. We hope you will consider deleting the sunset and extending the program indefinitely, since we believe that concern about the impact on participating farmers in the event of a sunset is a disincentive to more farmers entering into the agreements.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director