



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

April 17, 2019

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
State Capitol, Room 2003  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 138 (Bloom) -- SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Bloom:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is pleased to support your AB 138, which proposes a multi-faceted approach to help reduce the incidence of diseases related to excessive consumption of sugar in the diet. CAFF is a statewide organization of farmers and non-farm Californians who support policies that promote both the long-term sustainability of California agriculture and a more healthful and nutritious food system. The innovative approach taken in AB 1357 does both in a meaningful way, and for that reason we strongly support the bill.

The range of diseases that result from excessive sugar consumption –including diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and pancreatic cancer –are incredibly costly to individuals, families and society, including to our health care system. One of the most effective ways to combat these diseases is by improvements to diet, through better public education and access to nutritious foods. Thus we support AB 138's funding for the State Department of Education, whose Farm to School program exposes children to fresh fruits and vegetables in school gardens and in their lunchrooms, and for the Department of Food and Agriculture, which promotes greater direct access to locally grown fresh produce, through farmers markets, community supported agriculture and other outlets that support local farmers as well as consumers. These programs, combined with greater support for public health education, outreach and treatment programs, can make California a model for comprehensive and effective policies to reduce obesity and other sugar-related diseases.

We commend you for your continued work on this important issue and urge your colleagues to vote YES on AB 138.

Sincerely,

David Runsten  
Policy Director