



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

April 17, 2019

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

RE: AB 144 (Aguiar-Curry) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is pleased to support your AB 144, which will, we hope, result in California more effectively managing and using its organic waste resources. Specifically, we support Section 4 of the bill (PRC 75125.5), which directs the Strategic Growth Council to prepare a scoping plan for how the state should meet its overlapping obligations regarding organic waste, climate change, and air quality.

California has many laws and rules on the books designed to divert organic materials from landfills, where they are treated like waste and left to emit greenhouse gases. In fact, organic materials should not be treated as waste but as valuable resources that can instead be processed into compost. Compost has a variety of societal and environmental benefits, including increasing soil nutritive value, retaining soil moisture, retarding soil erosion, and substituting for greenhouse gas emitting synthetic fertilizers, not to mention reducing methane emissions from the organic materials themselves. For all the benefits of compost recognized in California law, the state continues to erect barriers to the construction and operation of compost facilities. It is our hope that the cross-agency mandate of the Strategic Growth Council can overcome the siloed approach that has stymied compost production and use in California and find a solution to these barriers.

For these reasons CAFF supports AB 144 and urges its passage by the Legislature.

Sincerely ,

David Runsten
Policy Director