



August 16, 2019

Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 253 (Dodd) Wildlife Habitat – SUPPORT AS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez and Committee Members:

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 SB 253 as recently amended.

We were concerned that the bill duplicated existing programs in the Environmental Farming Program at CDFA, programs that we had spent ten years helping the department develop. We were also concerned that the bill did not conform to AB 2377 technical assistance requirements that target socially disadvantaged farmers. Both of these issues have been resolved through amendments by the author in consultation with CDFA.

We believe that a program that lends state support to farmers to create wildlife habitat on their farms is a good complement to existing programs at CDFA. We thank the sponsors and author for working with CDFA to resolve our concerns.

For these reasons we ask for your support for SB 253.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director

CC: Dodd