



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

September 11, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 614 (Eggman) – Expand Food Bank Donation Tax Credit – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (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. CAFF respectfully requests that you sign **Assembly Bill 614** (Eggman), which would expand the Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit beyond fresh produce, to make eligible other healthy California foods such as milk, meat, eggs and other staples. For a very modest cost, AB 614 truly delivers a triple win: fighting hunger, preventing food waste, and supporting farmers.

Current federal threats underscore the urgent need for AB 614: the lines at food banks are longer than ever due to the chilling effect from public charge, categorical eligibility, and other threats that limit the reach of CalFresh and the other nutrition programs. Especially as immigrant families—including many farm workers—avoid safety net programs, AB 614 is a small but vital investment to maintain health by enabling food banks to provide healthy food with no questions asked.

AB 614 is necessary because farmers and food producers face real costs to donate – it is often cheaper to landfill product than invest in the labor, cold storage and other expenses needed to donate. The existing policy has proven effective and fiscally responsible in driving agricultural donations to food banks, and we believe that other nutritious foods will be donated under AB 614.

The current Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit is working well and expanding it to a broader range of California foods will help ensure that low-income Californians have access to complete nutrition necessary for a well-rounded diet, supporting farmers and reducing food waste. For these reasons CAFF is in strong support of AB 614 and respectfully asks for your signature.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director

Cc: Rachel Wagoner, Deputy Legislative Secretary to the Governor

Submit via portal: leg.unit@gov.ca.gov

Send to: Lilliana.udang@asm.ca.gov and andrew@cafoodbanks.org