

Roots of Change

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FOOD SAFETY



April 5, 2021

Assembly Member Robert Rivas  
Chair, Assembly Agriculture Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Submitted via electronic mail*

**RE: AB 125 (The Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms, and Worker Protection Bond Act) - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Rivas:

We write enthusiastically as sponsors of AB 125. Our organizations represent a broad cross-section of California stakeholders engaged in the development of a healthy, sustainable, and just food and farming system. The vulnerabilities of our current food and farming system have been highlighted throughout the past year, as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the risks faced by the essential workers who feed us, demonstrated the fragility of our food supply chains, and intensified the plight of food insecure people and communities across our state. Meanwhile, climate change continues to bring both new and recurring disasters: ongoing drought, devastating wildfires, and more.


AB 125 will deliver the resources needed to catalyze much-needed recovery and lasting changes in California's food and agricultural system. This bond is an opportunity to advance economic recovery while responding to the climate crisis and the damage COVID-19 has done to our food and farming system. Crucially, the bond is also designed to address the long-standing inequities in our food system. AB 125 would direct significant resources to farmers, ranchers, fishers, communities of color, and Tribes who have historically been excluded from many state programs. With AB 125, we have a unique opportunity to create an equitable and resilient food and farming system. Increasing access to healthy food; combating hunger in our communities; building resilient and reliable regional food supply chains; supporting small and mid-sized farmers and ranchers; expanding climate-smart farming practices, including organic; and protecting workers in our fields, kitchens, schools, and grocery stores are the investments we need to create a bright future for all Californians. AB 125 will help catalyze the development of the nimble, diverse, resilient food and farming system our state needs to thrive, no matter the crises we face in the future.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Andy Naja-Riese, Chief Executive Officer  
Agricultural Institute of Marin



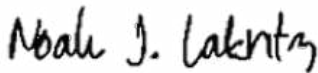
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Roots of Change  
A program of the Public Health Institute



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