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California State Assembly Committee on Agriculture  
Chair Robert Rivas  
1021 O Street, Suite 5110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 13, 2022

Re: AB 1870: Organic Products—SUPPORT

Dear Chair Rivas:

The undersigned organic food manufacturing and processing companies and agriculture organizations write in support of the bill introduced by Assembly Member Mark Stone, AB 1870: Organic Products. We urge swift passage of this bill that would bolster California's economy by streamlining oversight of organic business by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

California's organic food manufacturing and processing sector is an economic powerhouse. Newly released data from CDPH shows that these businesses generated **\$34.5 billion** in gross sales in 2021, a 133% increase from 2020. As sales increase due to strong consumer demand, there is a need for more efficient and streamlined oversight of organic food manufacturers and processors.

Currently, CDPH creates unnecessary hurdles for business through a paper-based registration system and decentralized and complicated forms. In addition, unclear reporting on program costs and revenue from fees means organic fee payers do not know whether the fees collected benefit them. Finally, CDPH has a backlog of pending complaints despite a statutory requirement to resolve complaints within 90 days.

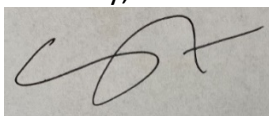
We support AB 1870 because it will:

- Streamline the annual state registration process by requiring that CDPH create an online registration and payment procedure and consolidate the multiple forms businesses must fill out that collect redundant information into a single application;
- More quickly remove bad players who make false organic claims by requiring that CDPH create a process for resolving complaints within the 90 days required by statute and develop a procedure for clearing complaints that cannot be resolved within that timeframe; and
- Bring transparency to CDPH's oversight of organic businesses by requiring that CDPH report program revenues and expenses annually.

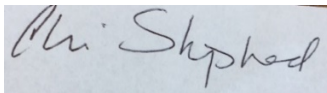
When we in the organic food manufacturing and processing sector decide to acquire organic certification, we voluntarily sign onto an extensive process of oversight and regulation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as by the state of California. We also must follow rigorous organic standards that specify we can only use organic ingredients and cannot use artificial flavors, colors, or preservatives. AB 1870 will help California organic food manufacturers and processors keep up with the ever-growing consumer demand for healthy organic products.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

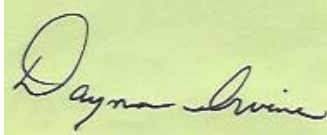
Sincerely,

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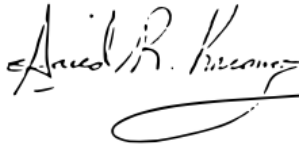
Curtis Davenport, Admiral Maltings, Alameda



Chris Shepherd, Café Altura, Ventura



Dayna Irvine, A’Roma Roasters, Santa Rosa



Saied Karamooz, Blue Beautifly, Oakland



Dave Runsten, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), Davis



Anna Larson, California Climate and Action Network (CalCAN), Sacramento



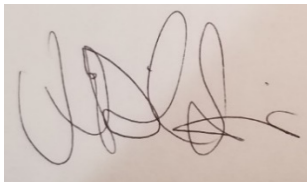
Jane Sooby, California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), Santa Cruz



Taylor Roschen, California Farm Bureau, Sacramento



Trudi E. Hughes, California League of Food Processors, Sacramento



Vincent Verzi, Due Torri Coffee Co., Oakland



Don Foret, Eckert Frozen Foods, Escalon



Mason Brady, Homegrown Organic Farms, Porterville



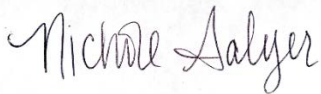
Mark Neal, Jack Neal and Son, Napa, and Neal Family Vineyards, LLC, Angwin



Charlie Jordan, Kinetic Koffee, Arcata



Phil LaRocca, LaRocca Vineyards, Forest Ranch



Nichole Salyer, Lundberg Family Farms, Richvale

***K. Mavany***

Khadijah Mavany, Majestic Spice, Los Angeles



Scott A. Murray, Murray Farms, Inc., Vista



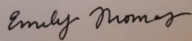
Vernon Peterson, Peterson Family, Kingsburg



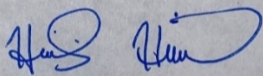
Mona Shulman, Pacific Coast Producers, Lodi



Kirk Aronstam, Oro de Sonora Pure Jojoba Family Farms, Brea



Emily Thomas, Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing, Santa Cruz



Hiroki Hiura, Setton Organic, LLC, Terra Bella



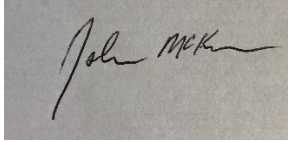
Shawn Dunn, Shroomworks, Los Angeles



Anna deLaski, Solminer Wine Co., Los Olivos

*Don and Julia Ellis*

Don and Julia Ellis, Strawhouse, Junction City

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John McKeon, Taylor Farms, Salinas

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Jeremy Johnson, Traditional Medicinals, Rohnert Park

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a stylized, cursive script with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Menes, True Organic Products, Inc., Spreckels

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Andrew Kearns".

Andrew Kearns, Veritable Vegetable, San Francisco