



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

April 13, 2017

The Honorable Susan Eggman
State Capitol, Room 4117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1219 (Eggman) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblywoman Eggman:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is a statewide organization that represents both farmers and non-farm residents who support sustainable food and farming policies. CAFF is pleased to support your AB 1219, which reduces legal disincentives to the donation of food, thereby encouraging food donations to the needy and helping to divert food that would otherwise be treated as waste.

The benefits of donating food for the needy are without dispute, but there is always a possibility of illness or injury from consuming food. Existing law recognizes this problem by granting immunity from liability to food facilities that donate food to non-profit organizations and food banks. AB 1219 extends immunity in two ways: 1) by granting immunity to individuals and gleaners, as well as food facilities, who donate food, and 2) by applying the immunity to donations made directly to end users as well as to non-profits or food banks. The bill also raises the level of negligence or misconduct that must be demonstrated before immunity is denied.

California produces and consumes a prodigious amount of food products. Despite existing successful programs to divert unused foods from landfills and to needy persons, a significant amount of food still ends up as waste material. Landfilled food waste is not only a tragic lost opportunity to help those in need, but also an avoidable contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. For these reasons, CAFF supports your efforts to increase food donations and looks forward to working with you for the enactment of AB 1219.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director