



September 19, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 224 (Gordon)—Community Supported Agriculture—REQUEST for SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is a statewide organization that represents both farmers and non-farm urban residents who support sustainable food and farming policies. For over 30 years we have been promoting direct marketing of agricultural products, something your administration made possible in the 1970s.

CAFF is pleased to be a sponsor of AB 224, which will add Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) to the state's direct marketing program. CAFF chaired the CSA subcommittee of CDFA's task force on direct marketing, and we have been sharing the discussion about CSA regulation with every CSA in California for two years. I have fielded dozens of queries from CSA farmers, and I believe that with the current set of amendments that we have addressed virtually all of the concerns expressed by CSA farmers, as well as the concerns of CDFA. This bill now has widespread support in the affected farming community.

It became clear in that task force that CSAs were not an "approved source" for health and safety purposes at present, and that either they needed to obtain retail food permits from Environmental Health or they needed to be clearly included in the direct marketing laws and some food safety practices mandated that would satisfy the health authorities. This bill accomplishes that and will particularly benefit smaller CSAs and beginning farmers who would otherwise see the retail requirements as a barrier to entry.

We believe that this bill defines CSAs in a way that is in the spirit of the agricultural direct marketing laws and allows them the flexibility they need to operate profitable businesses. We respectfully request your signature.

Sincerely,

David Runsten  
Policy Director

cc: Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary  
Hon. Richard Gordon, Assemblyman, 24<sup>th</sup> District