March 24, 2016

The Honorable Lois Wolk
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1386 (Wolk) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wolk:

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. CAFF is pleased to support your SB 1386, which codifies as state policy the value of protecting and managing farmland and other working lands as a key strategy in reducing the state’s greenhouse gas emissions.

With your leadership, CAFF and our sustainable agriculture allies have worked for years to educate state agencies, including the Air Resources Board, the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Water Resources, of the multiple ways in which specific agricultural practices can reduce GHG emissions and sequester carbon in soils and woody biomass. SB 1386 will add legal backbone to these arguments by requiring agencies to consider the benefits of these practices when they adopt regulations, establish grant criteria and make spending decisions.

CAFF regards SB 1386 as a very important step forward in validating the role sustainable agriculture can play in the state’s efforts to achieve its GHG emission reduction goals. We appreciate your introduction of the bill and look forward to supporting it through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director