April 18, 2016

The Honorable James Gallagher
State Capitol, Room 5128
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2755 (Gallagher) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Gallagher:

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 AB 2755, the Beehive Protection Act, which would provide for civil damages of three times the value of bees that are willfully taken, possessed, harbored, or transported from their beehive.

We deplore all theft from farming operations, but we find it particularly galling that theft of beehives is increasing at the same time as bees themselves are under such stress from a variety of sources. Of course these are related, since the declining numbers of bees has increased the cost of renting beehives for pollination services, and so increased the return on stealing hives. This increased return from theft means that we should increase the penalties for theft, which AB 2755 accomplishes.

Many crops in California rely on pollinators to make production viable. We thank you for carrying this bill and its attempt to protect the beekeepers who make pollination possible, and we urge its passage.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director