



Community Alliance with Family Farmers & Farmers Guild
PO Box 363 Davis, CA 95617
May 15, 2021

Sustainable Agriculture, Research & Education, Western Region
07 Linfield Hall
Montana State University
Bozeman MT 59717

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Farm to Market Program Director at the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), a California-based nonprofit that builds sustainable food and farming systems through local and statewide policy advocacy and on-the-ground programs in an effort to initiate institutionalized change. We work to support family farmers and serve community members throughout the state, including consumers, food service directors, schoolchildren and low-income populations with the aim of growing a more resilient, just and abundant food system for all Californians. The Farm to Market Team develops and delivers programs to increase local market access for small- to mid-scale California family farmers and help ensure that the food that they produce is available to local communities, including schools and hospitals. We focus on supporting BIPOC farmers, including the Latinx community, and have full time, Spanish speaking, culturally competent staff based in the Central Coast and Central Valley.

I write this letter to express CAFF's support for, and commitment to the "Supporting Small Farms and New and Future Farmers through Agricultural Technology, Regenerative Practices, Permaculture and Best Practices" proposal. The project's focus is especially timely and needed in light of the relatively weak collaborative infrastructure for small farms on the California Central Coast. This is an ambitious proposal that would go far in developing and building such infrastructure, especially for minority farmers in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. If the preproposal receives approval to proceed to the full proposal state, we will be involved as advisors.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Thomas
Program Director, Farm to Market