



The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani, Chair
 Senate Committee on Agriculture
 1020 N Street, Room 583
 Sacramento, CA 95814

June 8, 2018

RE: SUPPORT – AB 2377 (Irwin)

Dear Chair Galgiani,

On behalf of the undersigned groups, we write in support of AB 2377 – the Climate Smart Agriculture Act. AB 2377 would fund technical assistance for farmers and ranchers seeking to transition to Climate Smart Agriculture. AB 2377 received bi-partisan, unanimous support in both the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees, as well as a 72-0 vote on the Assembly Floor.

California’s 77,000 farms and ranches are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including constrained water resources, extreme weather events, and new pest and disease pressures. Many of agriculture’s climate change mitigation strategies provide numerous agronomic, environmental and public health benefits, including increased water retention in soils, improved crop and forage yields, improved air and water quality, and increased energy and water savings.

California’s Climate Smart Agriculture programs provide important financial resources to encourage farmers and ranchers to adopt farm management practices that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration to help meet the state’s 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.

Improved delivery of technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, including producer outreach, project design, grant application assistance, and project implementation, will allow for a greater number of

producers to successfully participate in the Climate Smart Agriculture programs. And by prioritizing technical assistance for small and moderately-scaled farms and ranches and requiring at least 25 percent of the technical assistance funds available to be provided to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, AB 2377 will improve program delivery and reach.

Greater technical assistance for farmers and ranchers will improve the overall climate impact of the Climate Smart Agriculture programs, making it possible for the state to realize the powerful climate solutions agriculture has to offer.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of California agriculture. We urge your 'aye' vote on AB 2377 to support California's innovative farmers and ranchers in transitioning to Climate Smart Agriculture.

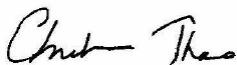
Sincerely,



Jeanne Merrill
Policy Director
California Climate & Agriculture Network
(Sponsor)



Amelia Moore
Program Coordinator
California Alliance of Farmers' Markets



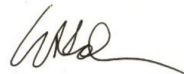
Chukou Thao
Executive Director
National Hmong American Farmers
Association



Dave Henson
Executive Director
Occidental Arts & Ecology Center



David Runsten
Policy Director
Community Alliance with Family Farmers



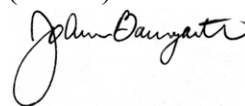
Ellie Cohen
President and CEO
Point Blue Conservation Science



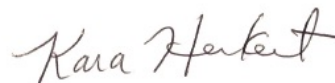
Jan Derecho
Executive Director
Ecological Farming Association



Jane Sooby
Senior Policy Specialist
California Certified Organic Farmers
(CCOF)



Jo Ann Baumgartner
Executive Director
Wild Farm Alliance



Kara Heckert
California State Director
American Farmland Trust



Karen Buhr
Executive Director
California Association of Resource
Conservation Districts



Kris Beal
Executive Director
Vineyard Team



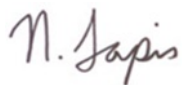
Laurel Marcus
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Fish Friendly Farming



Martin Bourque
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Ecology Center



Michael Miiller
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California Association of Winegrape
Growers



Nick Lapis
Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste



Reggie Knox
Executive Director
California Farmlink



Rebecca Spector
West Coast Director
Center for Food Safety



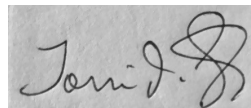
Rex Dufour
Western Regional Office Director
National Center for Appropriate Technology



Sigrid Wright
CEO/Executive Director
Community Environmental Council



Tim Schmelzer
Vice President, California State Relations
Wine Institute



Torri Estrada
Executive Director
Carbon Cycle Institute