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March 17, 2017

Assemblymember Mark Stone, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N St, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1219 (Eggman) California Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

Dear Assemblymember Stone,

California Food Policy Advocates would like to express our support for AB 1219, by Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman, a measure that will clarify and expand on existing protections for good faith food donors in order to encourage increased food donations.

California Food Policy Advocates is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. Food donations are an important source of nutrition for many food banks and community-based food pantries. AB 1219 is an important step towards encouraging individuals and organizations to donate excess food that would otherwise be wasted.

Much of the food currently going to landfills is wholesome and edible. When edible food is buried in a landfill we not only squander the resources it took to grow, process, and transport that food, we also miss an opportunity to utilize that food to its full potential and feed individuals in need. This is especially crucial since the state faces a hunger crisis that affects one in eight Californians, including one in four children.

Many food manufacturers, retailers, and restaurants cite fear of liability as a top barrier to donating food. AB 1219 provides clarification and expands on the scope of current food donor protection laws, which will assist the state in meeting organic waste diversion and food recovery goals, such as those set by SB 1383, and also encourage more donations to organizations who seek to redistribute food to individuals in need.

California Food Policy Advocates urges your support on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tracey Patterson
Director of Legislation

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman