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March 26, 2012

VIA FACSIMILE – 916.319.2149

The Honorable Mike Eng
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 685 (Eng) – Human Right to Water - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Eng:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) supports AB 685, which would establish a long-term policy goal of achieving universal access to safe, affordable water, and which would impose a duty on relevant state agencies -- when those agencies are engaging in specific administrative actions that are likely to impact the safety and affordability of water service -- to use each such regulatory opportunity to advance the implementation of the policy.

AB 685 provides a clear legal mechanism for state agencies to prioritize the water and sanitation needs of communities that currently lack access to safe and affordable domestic water and wastewater service, as well as a means to proactively ensure that the number of California residents who suffer from unsafe or unaffordable water service does not continue to increase.

AB 685 would move the state a step closer in the direction of achieving universal access to safe, affordable water for drinking, cooking, and sanitation. Not only is that important public policy in and of itself, but it is also supportive of recently-enacted legislation requiring access to potable drinking water: SB 1413, which requires fresh, free drinking water in all California public school food service areas; AB 2084, which requires ready access to drinking water in all licensed childcare facilities in California; and the federal Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act, which requires free drinking water be available in all schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and in all childcare facilities that participate in the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Thank you for your leadership on AB 685, an important step toward ensuring healthy nutrition environments for kids and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Braff-Guajardo".

ELLEN BRAFF-GUAJARDO

Senior Nutrition Policy Advocate

CFPA 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.