



4305 University Ave, Suite 545
San Diego, CA 92105
619.376.6214
www.cfpa.net

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Autumn Burke
Chair, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
1020 N Street, Room 167A
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 2243 (Eggman) – Extend Food Bank Donation Tax Credit – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Burke,

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 2243, which would extend the sunset for the Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit until 2027, protecting this valuable policy tool to drive donations of foods grown or produced in California such as grains, proteins and dairy. California is the leading agricultural producer in America, yet too many Californians still suffer from hunger and poor nutrition. Despite our state's great wealth, 1 in 8 Californians unfortunately faces hunger.

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. We understand that Food Banks are a critical source of support for low-income families and we believe the tax credit will bring donations that are necessary for the food pantries to bring critical resources to many families in California.

The Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit has proven to be effective and fiscally responsible in driving agricultural donations to food banks who feed those in need. It is scheduled to sunset, however, which means there would be food in our system that would not be donated and in some cases wasted and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to the challenges in maximizing donations of California-grown products, lines at our food pantries continue to be impacted by federal, state, and local pressures: the current climate of fear limiting the reach of CalFresh, historic disasters, unrelenting costs of housing that continue to soar, and increased federal pressures from the partial government shutdown.



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The current Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit is working, and the key remaining policy issue is simply to extend it to maintain the supply of California foods necessary to support a healthy population and prevent food waste. Extending the Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit provides much-needed certainty to our donors, while ensuring that low-income Californians have access to a complete grocery bag including, not just fresh produce, but also grains, protein, and dairy, necessary for a well-rounded diet. For the reasons outlined in this letter, California Food Policy Advocates is in strong support of AB 2243.

Sincerely,

Angeles Nelson

Angeles Nelson, California Food Policy Advocates

CC: Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman, Author