[Organizational Letterhead, if applicable]

[date]

Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman

Chair, Assembly Agriculture Committee

1020 N Street, Room 362

Sacramento, California 95814

Via facsimile: 916-319-2184

**Assembly Bill 551 (Ting) - Support**

Dear Assembly Member Eggman:

**[On behalf of \_\_\_(organization)\_\_\_\_\_\_]** I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 551, the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone Act. This legislation will help address one of the biggest obstacles facing urban farmers – affordable access to land.

Urban agriculture provides many benefits to city residents including: education about fresh, healthy food and the effort it takes to produce it; environmental benefits for the city; community-building; vibrant green spaces and recreation; and a source of economic development, including increased neighboring home values.

This legislation provides an incentive to private landowners to make more land available for urban agriculture, helping expand the number of Californians who benefit from city farming. Currently, hosting agriculture on a privately owned property can be cost-prohibitive because the revenue potential and property costs are disparate. AB 551 would enable a property owner to apply for a temporary property tax adjustment while the property is under contract with an agricultural enterprise.

**[A sentence or two about why you support this legislation and/or how you see this legislation supporting urban agriculture in your community]**

Because it is an opt-in measure for counties, Assembly Bill 551 offers a conservative approach to a widespread impediment to the emergence of viable urban agriculture projects across the State. **[I/we]** believe that the legislation, including Assembly Member Ting’s most recent amendments, provides a balanced and protective approach by being a voluntary program for property-owners, requiring a 10 year commitment in exchange for a lower property tax assessment, and including consequences for breach of agreements. Additionally, the legislation is narrowly tailored to target land that is unlikely to otherwise be developed short-term.

**[I/we/org name]** respectfully request your AYE vote for Assembly Bill 551.

Sincerely,

[signature]

[name]

[title]

CC:

Assembly Agriculture Committee

Assembly Member Philip Ting

Agriculture Committee Consultants: Victor Frankovich, Doug Haaland