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April 22, 2014

Assemblymember Philip Ting
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: Karen.Bocaling@asm.ca.gov

RE: Support for AB 2385

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

I am writing on behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) to express our support for AB 2385, which would establish the Market Match Nutrition Incentive Program (MMNIP) in the Department of Food and Agriculture to award grants to Market Match programs. AB 2385 would also position California to receive federal matching funds for Market Match programs. These programs help to improve low-income Californians' access to fresh fruit, vegetables, and nuts at farmers' markets.

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. We recognize that while the economy may be recovering, millions of Californians are still struggling to meet their most basic needs. For instance, the UCLA Center for Health Policy reports that at least 4 million low-income Californians could not consistently afford enough food in 2011-12.

AB 2385 would double the value of CalFresh, WIC, Senior Farmers Market, SSI, and SSDI benefits when those benefits are used to purchase fruits, nuts, and vegetables at farmers' markets. Ensuring that families have ready access to essential resources, such as nutritious food, helps households lead healthy, productive lives – and keeps struggling Californians from falling further into poverty. For these reasons, we support AB 2385.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tia Shimada".

Tia Shimada
Managing Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

cc: Michael Dimock, Roots of Change

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