**SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER AB 614 (Eggman) – Put on Letterhead**

**Submit via portal:** **leg.unit@gov.ca.gov**

**Send to:** Lilliana.udang@asm.ca.gov and andrew@cafoodbanks.org

DATE

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor, State of California

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 614 (Eggman) – Expand Food Bank Donation Tax Credit – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of [organization name], I write in strong support of Assembly Bill 614 (Eggman), which would expand the Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit beyond fresh produce, to make eligible other healthy California foods such as milk, meat eggs and other staples. For a very modest cost, AB 614 truly delivers a triple win: fighting hunger, preventing food waste, and supporting farmers.

California is the America’s leading agricultural producer, yet too many Californians still suffer from hunger and poor nutrition. Despite our state’s great wealth, 1 in 8 Californians faces hunger, including 1 in 5 kids.

AB 614 is necessary because farmers and food producers face real costs to donate. It is often cheaper to landfill product than invest in the labor, cold storage and other expenses needed to donate. The existing policy has proven effective and fiscally responsible in driving agricultural donations to food banks. It is limited to fresh produce, however, which means that many other foods that food banks need are not donated and instead create powerful climate-changing methane emissions.

Current federal threats underscore the urgent need for AB 614: the chilling effect from public charge, categorical eligibility, and other threats are limiting the reach of CalFresh and the other nutrition programs. Especially as families avoid safety net programs, **AB 614 is a small but vital investment to maintain health by enabling food banks to provide healthy food with no questions asked**.

AB 614 is estimated to cost $400,000 at implementation, falling to $200,000 annually. This is an small price to pay for the $2.6 million in donations of healthy food we estimate the policy to yield. Moreover, [hunger already costs California $7.2 billion in excess healthcare,](https://public.tableau.com/profile/feeding.america.research#!/vizhome/TheHealthcareCostsofFoodInsecurity/HealthcareCosts) as [emergency room visits spike at the end of the month when food budgets run out](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4215698/).

[Optional: what would AB 614 help your food bank receive? E.g. eggs, milk, or other non-produce items.]

The current Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit is working, and expanding it to a broader range of California foods will help ensure that low-income Californians have access to complete nutrition, while, supporting farmers and reducing food waste. For these reasons, [organization name] is in strong support of AB 614, and respectfully asks for your signature.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]