California State Assembly Committee on Agriculture  
Chair Robert Rivas  
1021 O Street, Suite 5110  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

April 13, 2022  

Re: AB 1870: Organic Products—SUPPORT  

Dear Chair Rivas:
The undersigned organic food manufacturing and processing companies and agriculture organizations write in support of the bill introduced by Assembly Member Mark Stone, AB 1870: Organic Products. We urge swift passage of this bill that would bolster California’s economy by streamlining oversight of organic business by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

California’s organic food manufacturing and processing sector is an economic powerhouse. Newly released data from CDPH shows that these businesses generated $34.5 billion in gross sales in 2021, a 133% increase from 2020. As sales increase due to strong consumer demand, there is a need for more efficient and streamlined oversight of organic food manufacturers and processors.

Currently, CDPH creates unnecessary hurdles for business through a paper-based registration system and decentralized and complicated forms. In addition, unclear reporting on program costs and revenue from fees means organic fee payers do not know whether the fees collected benefit them. Finally, CDPH has a backlog of pending complaints despite a statutory requirement to resolve complaints within 90 days.

We support AB 1870 because it will:

- Streamline the annual state registration process by requiring that CDPH create an online registration and payment procedure and consolidate the multiple forms businesses must fill out that collect redundant information into a single application;
- More quickly remove bad players who make false organic claims by requiring that CDPH create a process for resolving complaints within the 90 days required by statute and develop a procedure for clearing complaints that cannot be resolved within that timeframe; and
- Bring transparency to CDPH’s oversight of organic businesses by requiring that CDPH report program revenues and expenses annually.

When we in the organic food manufacturing and processing sector decide to acquire organic certification, we voluntarily sign onto an extensive process of oversight and regulation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as by the state of California. We also must follow rigorous organic standards that specify we can only use organic ingredients and cannot use artificial flavors, colors, or preservatives. AB 1870 will help California organic food manufacturers and processors keep up with the ever-growing consumer demand for healthy organic products.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Curtis Davenport, Admiral Maltings, Alameda
Chris Shepherd, Café Altura, Ventura

Dayna Irvine, A’Roma Roasters, Santa Rosa

Saied Karamooz, Blue Beautifly, Oakland

Dave Runsten, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), Davis

Anna Larson, California Climate and Action Network (CalCAN), Sacramento

Jane Sooby, California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), Santa Cruz

Taylor Roschen, California Farm Bureau, Sacramento

Trudi E. Hughes, California League of Food Processors, Sacramento

Vincent Verzi, Due Torri Coffee Co., Oakland
Don Foret, Eckert Frozen Foods, Escalon

Mason Brady, Homegrown Organic Farms, Porterville

Mark Neal, Jack Neal and Son, Napa, and Neal Family Vineyards, LLC, Angwin

Charlie Jordan, Kinetic Koffee, Arcata

Phil LaRocca, LaRocca Vineyards, Forest Ranch

Nichole Salyer, Lundberg Family Farms, Richvale

**K. Mavany**

Khadijah Mavany, Majestic Spice, Los Angeles

Scott A. Murray, Murray Farms, Inc., Vista
Vernon Peterson, Peterson Family, Kingsburg

Mona Shulman, Pacific Coast Producers, Lodi

Kirk Aronstam, Oro de Sonora Pure Jojoba Family Farms, Brea

Emily Thomas, Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing, Santa Cruz

Hiroki Hiura, Setton Organic, LLC, Terra Bella

Shawn Dunn

Shawn Dunn, Shroomworks, Los Angeles

Anna deLaski, Solminer Wine Co., Los Olivos
Don and Julia Ellis

Don and Julia Ellis, Strawhouse, Junction City

John McKeon, Taylor Farms, Salinas

Jeremy Johnson, Traditional Medicinals, Rohnert Park

Mike Menes, True Organic Products, Inc., Spreckels

Andrew Kearns, Veritable Vegetable, San Francisco