



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

September 18, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 465 (Ting) - Support

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of SPUR in support of Assembly Bill 465, the extension of the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone Act. This legislation will extend the life of the urban agriculture incentive zone program that helps urban farmers address one of the biggest obstacles they face – 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 modest source of economic development.

Numerous cities and counties across the state have created urban agriculture incentive zones and additional jurisdictions are in the process of implementing them, in accordance with AB 551 (2013). The ten year extension in AB 465 will help the program continue to provide benefits in cities where it already exists and allow others to start their own urban agriculture incentive zones.

Based on research SPUR conducted earlier this year, we know that this program has had a very modest impact on local tax revenue and we expect that, going forward, only a handful of property owners in each city will take advantage of the urban agriculture incentive. For the city gardening and farming projects that benefit from the access to land, this law will have a very positive impact. For local finances, this tax incentive has very little negative impact. For that reason, we believe it is well-targeted and well-balanced in achieving its aims.

SPUR respectfully request your signature in support of Assembly Bill 465 so that the more cities and counties can create urban agriculture incentive zones and those that already exist can continue supporting the expansion of city farming and gardening.

Sincerely,

Eli Zigas
Food and Agriculture Policy Director