

**SPUR**

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

April 10, 2017

Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via facsimile: 916-319-3959

**Assembly Bill 465 (Ting) - Support**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing 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 proposed in AB 465, as well as the amendments regarding population minimums and contiguous lots, 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.

SPUR strongly supported the original Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act and also advocated for its implementation in San Francisco, San Jose, and Santa Clara County. We have also corresponded with groups from across the state who have expressed an interest in using this law to promote urban agriculture in their own cities.

We respectfully request your AYE vote for 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

CC:

Assembly Local Government Committee  
Assembly Member Phil Ting