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JAMES GALLAGHER
ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN LEADER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

E-MAIL
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October 16, 2023

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Office of Farm to Fork – Urban Agriculture Grant Program
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Paul and Kara Tupy with Hidden Springs Family Ranch's Urban Agricultural Grant Program Application

Dear CDFA Urban Agriculture Program Staff,

This letter is in support of the Urban Agricultural Grant Program application submitted by Paul and Kara Tupy with Hidden Springs Family Ranch to expand their scope of practice supporting agricultural education.

For nearly a decade, Paul and Kara have opened their farm to local school children for field trips and other educational opportunities. This grant will expand what is offered to include a youth workforce development program called *Farm Teach* that provides paid internship opportunities for youth to learn about agriculture while raising animals and growing produce that will be donated to Chico Housing Action Team's food distribution program and shared with those who are experiencing food insecurity.

The project will cultivate agricultural literacy and create educational opportunities for school-aged children and youth as it relates to growing or consuming locally grown agricultural products. The project's high school and college internship program will pilot mobile farm stands in low-income neighborhoods to supplement access to and distribution of fresh food.

Paul, a peace officer with 25 years of service, and Kara, a school administrator with 20 years in the education sector, are committed to providing opportunities to disadvantaged youth and children through Farm Teach. Given their professional track records and the stable role they have played as leaders in the community, I am confident they will deliver as promised. For these reasons, I support the funding of Paul and Kara Tupy's project through the Urban Agriculture Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Gallagher".

James Gallagher
Assemblyman, 3rd District