



Historic 1st Step – Tax on Sugary Drinks Moves Forward

Greetings!

We are a long way from the finish line, but the California Assembly Health Committee made a historic first step by advancing Assembly Bill (AB) 138, the [California Community Health Fund](#). The bill had failed to advance in this first committee on several previous attempts.



This initial victory, on an 8 to 5 vote with 2 abstentions, resulted from the collective action of advocates at the grass roots and grass tops levels.

Click on the image above or [here](#) to see our 2-minute video.

Roots of Change Reaction to the April 9, 2019 Historic Vote in the Assembly Health Committee to Make California Healthy With a 2-Cent Tax on Sugary Drinks.

[Read the behind-the-scenes story here](#)

Calling All Food System Advocates: Now is the Moment to Use Your Voice!

April 22nd is Our Next Big Hurdle

Passage of **AB 138** could be transformative by providing hundreds of millions of dollars in annual funding to deliver food justice for communities still excluded from California's abundance. The bill as currently written identifies healthy food and nutrition programs as essential to prevention of diet related disease, but the nature of these program must be specified.

We know what we want:

- Funding for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to greatly expand the [California Nutrition Incentive Grant Program](#), a new grant program that will

fund community food projects such as urban farms, community kitchens, farm to school relationships, farmers market cooking programs that help people shop and that teach new customers to work with fresh produce.

- State Water Resources Control Board and Department of Social Services to **increase access to clean, safe and affordable drinking water** for all Californians.
- Department of Education to **improve school meals** by funding a sustained Farm to School grant program to ensure schools can buy local and organic produce, enhance their nutrition education classes as well as consistently maintain school gardens.
- Local Health Departments to **support community groups working to improve their local food systems** to improve healthy eating and active living and enhance the connection between eaters and their local food producers.

These things will only happen if we can inspire key legislators to add language to the bill as it advances through the legislative process.

You are needed to do this.

This is our best chance ever to move our state toward robust local food systems that deliver real food justice. On Monday, using social media, we will post an FAQ sheet and a list of ways you can help this campaign, or you can contact us at doris@rootsofchange.org to receive an email with the same information.

Thank you!



Doris Meier
Publisher, Pulse of the Food Movement
The Newsletter of Roots of Change
A Program of the Public Health Institute

 **Roots of Change**



mail@rootsofchange.org | www.rootsofchange.org