



February 12, 2021

The Honorable Andreas Borgeas
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3082
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: SB 74 (BORGEAS AND CABALLERO) KEEP CALIFORNIA WORKING ACT
SUPPORT – AS AMENDED FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Dear Senators Borgeas and Caballero:

The California Chamber of Commerce, as well as the organizations listed below, are pleased to **SUPPORT** your **SB 74 (Borgeas and Caballero)** since it will facilitate and assist with California's economic recovery.

Businesses of all sizes are reeling from the catastrophic impacts of COVID-19 and California is still experiencing high rates of unemployment. **SB 74**, in conjunction with the Small Business Grants Program Budget proposal and federal aid programs, would assist with addressing these pervasive issues and provides employers impacted by the pandemic with a financial bridge until they can fully recover.

Specifically, **SB 74** would appropriate \$2.6 billion dollars to the Office of Small Business Advocate in order to award grants to small businesses and non-profits that have experienced economic hardship resulting from COVID-19. The grant money could then be used by struggling businesses to pay for payroll costs, health care benefits, paid sick, medical, or family leave, costs reasonably associated with reopening business operations, costs reasonably associated with complying with COVID-19 federal, state, or local guidelines for reopening and required safety protocols, and insurance premiums.

SB 74 would award grants to employers that range from \$5,000 to \$60,000 depending upon certain defined revenue levels. Priority would be given to certain qualified applicants depending upon geographic impacts of COVID-19, total financial impact caused by COVID-19, in addition to specified workforce and ownership sectors.

The grants outlined in **SB 74** are also particularly welcomed by employers since the bill specifically states the grants are excluded from state income tax obligations.

When these grants are paired with the state's Small Business Relief Grants, as well as federal aid, the money offers struggling entities with a much-needed lifeline to survival. The California Small Business Relief Grant Program was created in November 2020 and over 300,000 applications were submitted – thus demonstrating just how vital these funds are to California's struggling businesses.

For these reasons, CalChamber and the listed organizations **SUPPORT** your **SB 74**.

Sincerely,



Preston Young
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce

Building Owners and Managers Association of
California
California Builders Alliance
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Farm Bureau
California Restaurant Association
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce
Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce
Folsom Chamber of Commerce
Fremont Chamber of Commerce
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Impact Southwest Riverside County
International Council of Shopping Centers
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
NAIOP of California, the Commercial Real
Estate Development Association
North Orange County Chamber
North San Diego Business Chamber
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Riverside County Workforce Development Board
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Rafael Chamber of Commerce
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber
South Bay Association of Chambers of
Commerce
South Orange County Economic Coalition
Southwest California Legislative Council

Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
United Chamber Advocacy Network

Western Manufactured Housing Communities
Association
Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce

cc: Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Kayla Williams, Senate Republican Caucus

PY:Idl