



An Update from the California Chamber Highlighting Business Legislation and Regulations

Hot Issues for the Week of September 11, 2006

Chamber Positions on Ballot Measures

Please Note: Position letters for all bills are available on the Chamber's web site at www.calchamber.com/positionletters.

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Economic Incentive Areas

SUPPORT AB 1550 (Arambula; D-Fresno) Helps ensure businesses continue to receive enterprise zone tax credits while their enterprise zone is pending redesignation. To Governor.

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Employment Practices

SUPPORT AB 2095 (Niello; R-Fair Oaks) Makes common-sense, clarifying changes to recently enacted supervisor anti-sexual harassment training requirements that will simplify compliance with the new law. To Governor.

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Small Business Rule Burden

SUPPORT AB 2330 (Arambula; D-Fresno) Small Business Advocate — Study of Regulatory Impact on Small Business — Helps protect ability of small businesses to maintain and create jobs by requiring a study of the cost impact of state regulations on California small businesses as well as to recommend less onerous compliance alternatives. To Governor.

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Small Business Ombudsman

SUPPORT SB 1436 (Figueroa; D-Fremont) Seeks to re-establish Small Business Ombudsman program in state agencies to improve small business access to information on proposed regulations affecting their businesses. To Governor.

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Attorney's Fees

OPPOSE SB 1489 (Ducheny; D-San Diego) Job Killer: Government Agency Potential Harassment of Employers — Invites unlimited "fishing expeditions" by the Attorney General under numerous statutes, including the Unruh Civil Rights Act and environmental laws, by permitting judges to make defendant companies pay all the investigation and lawsuit costs, including attorneys' fees if the Attorney General "prevails." The term "prevails" could include settlements, changes in operation by the defendant or even a miniscule monetary award." To Governor.

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Container Tax

OPPOSE SB 927 (Lowenthal; D-Long Beach) Job Killer: Ports: Goods Movement Consumer Fee — Increases the cost of exporting and importing goods in California by assessing a \$60 fee per container processed through the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports. To Governor.

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Fuel Mandate

OPPOSE AB 1012 (Nation; D-San Rafael) Job Killer: Fuel Mandate — Disrupts California's transportation fuels market by mandating the sale of scarce alternative fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel, resulting in significant gas price spikes. To Governor.

[Send a Letter](#)

Increased Energy Prices

OPPOSE AB 32 (Núñez; D-Los Angeles) Job Killer: Halts Economic Growth — Increases costs for California businesses, makes them less competitive and discourages economic growth with little or no proven environmental benefit by adopting an arbitrary cap on carbon emissions. To Governor.

[Send a Letter](#)

OPPOSE SB 1368 (Perata; D-Oakland) Job Killer: Increases Electricity Costs — Limits the available power sources to meet California's energy demands while substantially increasing the price of electricity to consumers and businesses by establishing an unattainable greenhouse gas emission performance standard. To Governor.

[Send a Letter](#)

Increased Health Care Mandate Premium Costs

OPPOSE SB 840 (Kuehl; D-Santa Monica) Job Killer: Government-Run Health Care — Imposes a costly government-run health care system on all Californians. To Governor.

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OPPOSE SB 1414 (Migden; D-San Francisco) Job Killer: Health Care Tax — Imposes a tax on employers with more than 10,000 employees to spend the equivalent of 8 percent of their total payroll on health care or pay the equivalent amount to the state. To Governor.

[Send a Letter](#)

Land Use

OPPOSE SB 1523 (Alarcon; D-San Fernando Valley) Job Killer: Regulatory Hurdles — Stifles economic development by adding an economic impact report prior to the superstore retailer approval process. To Governor.

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Workers' Compensation

OPPOSE SB 815 (Perata; D-Oakland) Job Killer: Workers' Compensation: Permanent Disability Schedule — Rolls back recent workers' compensation reforms by arbitrarily doubling the permanent disability payments over three years without sound data with which to base the increase. To Governor.

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Health Care Mandate

OPPOSE AB 1840 (Jerome Horton; D-Inglewood) List of Shame — Creates public access website to list employers with employees participating in public assistance health care programs on a "list of shame." To Governor.

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Increased Wage Costs

OPPOSE AB 1835 (Lieber; D-Mountain View) Minimum Wage Increases — Increases the cost of doing business by raising the state minimum wage to \$7.50 in 2007 and to \$8 in 2008, giving California the highest minimum wage rate in the nation. AB 1835 would increase both public and private employer wage costs by at least \$2.6 billion annually, raising costs to consumers and driving employers who cannot absorb the steep increases to other states. To Governor.

[Send a Letter](#)

Punitive Damages

OPPOSE SB 832 (Perata; D-Oakland) Hampers needed reforms to California's out-of-control punitive damages system by establishing 75 percent of all punitive damages awards as a source of state funding for the next five years. To Governor.

[Send a Letter](#)

Legislative Center

For more information on the bills listed here, visit the [government relations section](#) on our website. To go straight to the position letters search page, visit www.calchamber.com/positionletters. For background information, see the California Chamber [Business Issues and Legislative Guide](#) on our website.

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California Chamber of Commerce - 1215 K St., Suite 1400 - Sacramento, CA 95814 - (916) 444-6670

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