

Dear Reader:

Until the news improves, the economy will be making headlines for months to come. One message that bears repeating and repeating during these tough times is that a stronger economy and jobs climate begins with supporting the ability of businesses of all sizes to succeed.

The importance of nurturing an environment in which businesses can once again grow and prosper is why we have advised lawmakers to keep economic impacts in mind when considering changes to California's tax structure. The same principle should guide the state as it seeks to lead the way on limiting greenhouse gases and blending climate change concerns with transportation and land use planning, or balancing competing concerns when regulating consumer products.

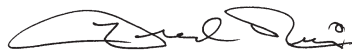
Common-sense actions to reduce employer costs, such as the policies outlined here, will free resources so companies can invest in improving and expanding operations. Employers and employees can benefit from reforms to meal and rest period requirements and overtime laws, as well as maintaining the reforms that have yielded significant workers' compensation savings. A fair and balanced legal system can save employers from wasting time and money on expensive and needless lawsuits, and enable companies to focus on business-building efforts that can get the economy moving.

A recovering economy, in turn, is a basic ingredient of any solution to California's budget crisis. Ultimately, it is a healthy economy that can generate the revenues for government to use in providing the services Californians need and want, including schools, transportation networks and infrastructure for energy and housing. More job creation will ease demand on the overloaded, employer-funded unemployment insurance system.

On top of the budget dilemma, there are other long-standing issues that must be addressed before they become barriers to California's future prosperity. We must make sure California has a reliable water supply for its ever-growing needs, and that graduates of our school system have the high skills essential for the workforce of today and tomorrow. Improving health care affordability and access remains a challenge.

We also need to attend to rules governing how we relate to the world, including the immigration policies that affect workers on both sides of our borders, and our handling of the free trade agreements that are an integral part of doing business in the world marketplace today.

A big help with our efforts to present the pro-jobs perspective to policymakers is your active support. Elected officials pay special heed to comments from you, their constituents, knowing that you speak from experience on the front lines of the working world. Please be sure to take advantage of our grassroots website at www.calchambervotes.com and invite your colleagues to speak out as well. Our combined efforts can go far toward helping legislators understand what should be done to help California lead the nation out of the recession.



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