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Inside the Capitol features hot legislative issues for the week along with CalChamber call to action requests on business legislation.

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Hot Issues for the Week of August 21, 2017

Wednesday, August 23

Increased Unnecessary Litigation Costs

OPPOSE SB 49 (de León; D-Los Angeles) JOB KILLER: Creates Uncertainty and Increases Potential Litigation Regarding Environmental Standards — Creates Uncertainty and Increases Potential Litigation Regarding Environmental Standards. Creates uncertainty by giving broad and sweeping discretion to State agencies to adopt rules and regulations more stringent than the federal rules and regulations in effect on January 19, 2017 through an expedited administrative procedure without public participation or input, when the State agencies determine that federal action leads to less stringent laws and regulations than those in effect on January 19, 2017; and increases the potential for costly litigation by creating private rights of action under California law, which may be triggered when a State agency takes the foregoing discretionary action. Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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Energy

OPPOSE SB 356 (Skinner; D-Berkeley) Threatens Grid Reliability and Safety — Threatens the safety and reliability of California's transmission grid by requiring the release of security-sensitive and market-sensitive data. Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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Assembly Floor

Arbitration Discrimination

OPPOSE SB 33 (Dodd; D-Napa) JOB KILLER: Discrimination Against Arbitration Agreements — Unfairly discriminates against arbitration agreements contained in consumer contracts for goods or services with a financial institution, as broadly defined, which is likely preempted by the Federal Arbitration Act and will lead to confusion and unnecessary litigation.

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Senate Floor

Industrial Safety and Health

OPPOSE AB 978 (Limón; D-Goleta) Access to Employer Records — Inappropriately allows organizations unaffiliated with the employer to access an undefined and potentially unlimited scope of employer internal documents and circumvents the rulemaking process now underway to provide for access by employees to their employer's Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP).

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Labor and Employment

OPPOSE AB 1565 (Thurmond; D-Richmond) Significant Cost Increase on Employers and Costly Litigation — Unnecessarily accelerates the minimum salary threshold for exempt employees, which will significantly increase costs especially on small employers who currently have a delayed increase under the current minimum wage scheduled increases.

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