

UCAN
United Chamber Advocacy Network

Where You Can Make a Difference for Business in California!

April 4, 2018

Hon. Sharon Quirk-Silva
Chair, Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy
California State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 359
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2596 (Cooley) re: California Economic Development Strategic Plan – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Quirk-Silva.

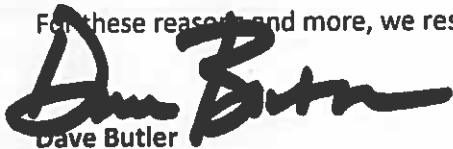
On behalf of the chambers of commerce that comprise the United Chamber Advocacy Network of California (UCAN) and their nearly 4800 combined members, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for Assembly Bill 2596 which requires the development of a statewide economic development strategy that leverages California's success to build a market-based, inclusive economy throughout our great state.

In a recent joint membership survey, the UCAN chambers asked "what is the top issue impacting your business' bottom line?" After the issues of taxes and regulations, over one third of respondents cited "California's overall business climate" as a barrier to their success. Clearly, while California leads the nation in job growth, this economic growth is not being felt in all sectors of the economy nor in all communities within California.

Every successful business has to have a business plan. A business plan allows prospective investors to understand a company's strengths, weaknesses, market niche and overall vision for success. And just as every business ought to have a business plan to attract investors, every jurisdiction, including the state of California, ought to have a plan to best position itself against the competition and ensure broad based economic growth and prosperity.

Most economic developers will tell you that "regions are the units of economic competition," not cities, counties or even states. California has enormously prosperous regions – including the San Francisco Bay Area/Silicon Valley, Los Angeles County, Orange County and San Diego. In many respects these regions are prosperous because a set of industry segments are well developed and well defined, educational institutions develop innovation and skilled workers that drive established and emerging businesses, and financial institutions are well positioned to underwrite this growth. Unfortunately, other regions in California are not as developed and its residents not as prosperous. We believe a statewide economic development strategy will further enhance the competitive advantage enjoyed by California's mega-regions and also provide a roadmap to expand prosperity to all regions in the Golden State.

For these reasons and more, we respectfully urge your "aye" vote on AB 2596.



Dave Butler
Advocate
United Chamber Advocacy Network

cc. Members, Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy
Assemblymembers Ken Cooley, Frank Bigelow, Jim Cooper, Kevin Kiley

United Chamber Advocacy Network

El Dorado County Joint Chamber Commission; Elk Grove Chamber Commerce; Folsom Chamber of Commerce;
Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce; Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce

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