## UCAN

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

Where You Can Make a Difference for Business in California!

May 2, 2018

Hon. Autumn Burke Chair, Committee on Revenue and Taxation California State Assembly Legislative Office Building 1020 N Street, Room 176A Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1922 (Fong): California Competitiveness and Innovation Act – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Burke:

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 support for Assembly Bill 1922 which seeks to reduce the tax burden for California families and businesses.

In a recent joint membership survey, the UCAN chambers asked "what is the top issue impacting your business' bottom line?" The top concern, expressed by 74% of respondents was the state of California's tax structure as the primary barrier to their success, followed by regulations, HR policy, legal liability and the overall business climate. These survey results primarily reflect the perspective of small business owners and operators, as 82% of the respondents employed 15 or fewer people.

Businesses exist in a competitive environment. Customers and investors have the ability to choose where to invest their dollars and, to compete and win, business owners and operators must provide a high quality product at an attractive price. Political jurisdictions also exist in a competitive environment. Cities, counties, states and nations compete for people, business and investment. While many areas within the state are premium markets, many communities are not and residents and small businesses struggle to make ends meet. California's high tax structure inhibits the success of individual Californians and small business owners.

By doubling the renter's tax credit and the property tax exemption and eliminating the franchise tax for small businesses, AB 1922 is an attempt to reduce the tax burden for individual Californians and small business owners, and is a step toward enhancing California's economic competitive edge.

At a time of record surpluses, your approval of AB 1922 is the right thing to do for California.

these reasons and more, we respectfully urge the committee extend an "aye" vote on AB 1922.

Advocate

United Chamber Advocacy Network

cc. Assemblymember Vince Fong
Members, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
Assemblymembers Ken Cooley, Frank Bigelow, Jim Cooper, Kevin Kiley