

June 28, 2019

TO: Members, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water

FROM: Ben Ebbink, California Chamber of Commerce



**SUBJECT: AB 1321 (GIPSON) PUBLIC LANDS: STATE LANDS COMMISSION: COASTAL PORTS:
AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY
OPPOSE – AS AMENDED JUNE 17, 2019
SET FOR HEARING – JULY 9, 2019**

The California Chamber of Commerce respectfully **OPPOSES AB 1321 (Gipson)**, which improperly inserts the State Lands Commission into an issue involving the use of automated technology at California ports.

While we understand that there is currently significant discussion regarding this issue and the Port of Los Angeles, we believe it is inappropriate to propose state legislation in this matter. It is our understanding that current lease provisions and collective bargaining agreements between employee representatives and port employers permit the introduction of automated technology of this sort, and do not require any other port, city or state approval. We are also concerned that such legislative action could interfere with efficient operations at our ports and result in further delays to our intermodal transportation system.

Moreover, we do not believe it is appropriate to task the State Lands Commission with opining whether automated technology at coastal ports will provide a “safe working environment” or will have unspecified economic and jobs impacts.

While existing law provides specific and narrow responsibilities to the Commission with respect to the ports of Los Angeles and Oakland, we believe that the matters set forth in **AB 1321** are well beyond the scope of the expertise, authority and jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission.

Finally, while we appreciate there may be overall concerns with the issue of automation, we do not believe it is prudent or appropriate to utilize state legislation to address these issues. Each individual disputed automation decision should not be the subject of state legislation. Instead, a more deliberative and comprehensive conversation about these general issues may be appropriate. We would note that, until recently amended, SB 730 (Stern) proposed to establish a Commission on the Future of Work to examine issues including automation. And in May of this year, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-11-19 establishing a Future of Work Commission to help prepare our state’s workforce and state government for changes in the economy. We believe such a holistic conversation is more appropriate than individual legislation seeking to regulate individual decisions regarding the use of automated technology.

For these reasons, we respectfully **OPPOSE AB 1321**.

cc: Assemblymember Mike Gipson
Che Salinas, Office of the Governor
Bill Craven, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Todd Moffitt, Senate Republican Caucus

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