



February 10, 2021

The Honorable Autumn Burke  
 Chair, Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation  
 Legislative Office Building  
 1020 N Street, Room 167A  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 62 (Gray): Income taxes: credits: costs to comply with COVID-19 regulations – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Burke:

On behalf of the above business organizations in the Inland Empire, we write to express our support for AB 62, which would provide small and essential businesses with an income tax credit for the costs of complying with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards.

Businesses are currently experiencing economic hardships due to governmental restrictions placed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards come at a time of significant economic uncertainty for employees and employers alike. With levels of unemployment reaching records not seen since the Great Depression, and government-imposed economic shutdowns keeping businesses closed or significantly depressing revenue, many

businesses are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on. Layering new and unfeasible regulatory compliance costs on top of these existing challenges has the potential to set off a wave of permanent business closures and job losses. A study by the University of California Riverside showed that almost 50% of the small businesses in the Inland Empire reported a large negative effect from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To mitigate the financial impacts of the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards on small and essential businesses, AB 62 provides a limited income tax credit dedicated to offsetting the costs of complying with these workplace standards. Every dollar allocated under AB 62 will go directly to combating the spread of COVID-19 and keeping employees and the public safe from this global pandemic.

Federal and state programs have dedicated billions of dollars to help employers stay in business, but too often this assistance is insufficient or inaccessible. These programs have suffered from too many complex application systems and unclear requirements and timelines. AB 62 avoids these issues by instead providing direct financial aid to businesses taking action to help all of us combat COVID-19.

For these reasons stated above and others, we urge your support of AB 62. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our position in greater detail, please contact Luis Portillo at 909-944-2201 or by email at [lportillo@iecp.com](mailto:lportillo@iecp.com). Thank you.


Sincerely,



Bette Rader  
Beaumont Chamber of Commerce



Ellen B. Clarke  
Big Bear Valley Chamber of  
Commerce



Zeb Welborn  
Chino Valley Chamber of  
Commerce



Bobby Spiegel  
Corona Chamber of Commerce



Andrea De Leon  
Fontana Chamber of Commerce



Joshua Bonner  
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber  
of Commerce



Mark Creffield  
Greater High Desert Chamber of  
Commerce



Peggi Hazlett  
Greater Ontario Business Council



Cyndi Lemke  
Hemet San Jacinto Chamber of  
Commerce



Chris Nielsen  
Highland Chamber of Commerce




Paul Granillo  
Inland Empire Economic Partnership



Oscar Valdepeña  
Moreno Valley Chamber of  
Commerce



Patrick Ellis  
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of  
Commerce




Ignacio Valdivia  
Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce



Monique Manzanares  
Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Robert Hufnagel  
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of  
Commerce



Jan Hudson  
Redlands Chamber of Commerce



Emily Falappino  
Temecula Valley Chamber of  
Commerce



Peggy Robertson  
Upland Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Assembly Member Adam Gray