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Chamber of Commerce



April 13, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1743 (O'Donnell, Burke, Chávez, Cunningham, McCarty, Quirk-Silva, Thurmond)**  
**California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant, AS AMENDED**  
**SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Gonzalez Fletcher:

The California Manufacturers & Technology Association (CMTA) and the industry organizations listed below are pleased to **SUPPORT AB 1743 (O'Donnell, Burke, Chávez, Cunningham, McCarty, Quirk-Silva, Thurmond), as amended April 11** to continue funding for high-quality K-12 career technical education (CTE) programs. The Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) will sunset on June 30, 2018. Making the program permanent will bring much needed stability in program offerings and demonstrate the state's prioritization for this critical training that prepares all students to select either a post-secondary or career path upon graduation.

High-quality CTE programs that are informed by labor market data and aligned to industry needs equip all students to compete for careers in both today's marketplace and in the future. Further, these programs teach critical thinking, collaboration and teamwork, creative problem solving and work readiness tools – all of which are extremely desirable in an innovation economy.

Governor Brown established the CTEIG as part of the 2015-16 Budget to offer school districts additional support for training programs during their early transition into the Local Control Funding Formula with the belief that districts would ultimately be able to fund these programs in the out years. However, the historical decline of CTE emphasizes the need for continued dedicated support to maintain and expand these programs.

The demand for middle-skilled jobs is driving the need for trained workers in all California's industries. These jobs require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree and often a higher level of technical training. Such occupations can be found in all industries, including culinary arts, allied health, advanced manufacturing, information technology, construction, agriculture and administrative and professional services.

According to a National Skills Coalition, middle-skilled jobs account for 50 percent of California occupations and will continue to make up a majority of the state's labor market demand in the future<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately, only 39 percent of workers are trained to the skill level required to compete for these positions. In order to compete for these livable wage jobs, students need early access and exposure to high-quality training that is aligned to in-demand employment opportunities.

**AB 1743** not only continues funding to ensure CTE courses are offered in a consistent and robust manner, it also promotes high value programs by maintaining and strengthening the quality indicators and accountability system contained in the original CTEIG proposal that the Legislature overwhelmingly supported. Continued investment via the CTEIG also builds on past financial workforce investments to ensure that the facilities, machinery, teachers and know-how are not lost.

We must continue to make workforce development a priority in California and make significant investments in training programs that will prepare many more Californians for entry into either a career or post-secondary institution. For these reasons, we **SUPPORT AB 1743** and request your "aye" vote when the bill comes before you for consideration.

Sincerely,

California Manufacturers & Technology Association  
Agricultural Council of California  
Almond Alliance of California  
American Pistachio Growers  
Association of California Egg Farmers  
Associated General Contractors  
California Construction and Industrial Materials Association  
California Association for Local Economic Development  
California Association of Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors  
California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers

California Building Industry Association  
California Business Properties Association  
California Business Roundtable  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Correctional Peace Officers Association  
California Food Producers  
California Grain and Feed  
California Hospital Association  
California Independent Petroleum Association  
California Professional Association of Specialty Contractors  
California Restaurant Association  
California Seed Association  
CompTIA  
El Dorado County Joint Chamber Commission  
Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce  
Family Business Association of California  
Far West Equipment Dealers Association  
Folsom Chamber of Commerce  
National Federation of Independent Business  
Orange County Business Council  
Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce  
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Southwest California Legislative Council  
TechNet  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
Western Plant Health Association  
Wine Institute

cc: The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell  
The Honorable Autumn Burke  
The Honorable Rocky Chávez  
The Honorable Jordan Cunningham  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva  
The Honorable Tony Thurmond  
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Natasha Collins, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Jared Yoshiki, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus