

# From the Desk of the CEO



Dear CALED Members & Friends,

I hope your holidays are off to a great start and wish you all the best of the season. For our members and communities impacted by the wildfires, we offer our heartfelt sympathy and support. As I'm writing this, the Governor's Office, through GO-Biz and

CalOES, is working on an economic recovery plan for these areas. Several members have reached out to see if they can assist. We have shared that information with our state partners and will continue to assist those working on recovery as they need. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to learn more.

Additionally, we have spent the last couple of months meeting with members and gathering input for our 2019 legislative agenda – specifically focusing on the practical ways the State of California can support local economic development. We believe that through partnership and collaboration with local economic developers, the state can leverage the energy of California's economic development network to create positive impacts that benefit our businesses and residents.

In anticipation of the leadership of California's next Governor and with an eye to improving local economic development in California through practical solutions that can make a difference, the suite of policy recommendations that we believe could have immediate impact and effectively leverage the work local economic developers are already doing is immediately following this letter.

We are honored to be your voice at the state level and are grateful to the members that provided their input. If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding these recommendations, please feel free to reach out to CALED staff and our leadership.

Thank you and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and prosperous 2019!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gurbax Sahota".

Gurbax Sahota

## Economic Development Policy Recommendations

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### *Practical Solutions to Grow Local Economies*

The California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) is the voice of economic development practitioners and stakeholders. With over 750 members, CALED is one of the largest economic development organizations in the country. We believe that through partnership and collaboration with local economic developers, the state of California can leverage the energy of California's economic development network to create positive impacts that benefit our businesses and residents.

### **Background**

In anticipation of the leadership of California's next Governor and with an eye to improving local economic development in California through practical solutions that can make a difference, CALED has held several focus group meetings with our members and partners to identify and prioritize a suite of policy recommendations that we believe could have immediate impact and effectively leverage the work local economic developers are already doing.

The following recommendations below are focused around improving already existing state financing tools, programs and resources for economic development, as well as increasing partnerships with local governments and leveraging their economic development efforts to increase impact.