



Executive Committee

Jason Crawford, Chair
City of Santa Clarita

Aaron Laurel, Chair Elect
City of West Sacramento

Kevin Ham, Past Chair
City of Vista

Mather Kearney, Treasurer
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Margaret Silveira, Secretary
City of Lakeport

Carrie Rogers, Vice Chair
Los Angeles County EDC

Keith Boggs, Vice Chair
County of Stanislaus

Richard Chapman
Kern EDC

Kelly Calhoun
City of Pleasant Hill

Christine Damko
City of Temecula

Tonya Dowse
Siskiyou County EDC

Jessica Gonzales
City of Anaheim

Stewart Knox
CA Employment Training Panel

Robert Moran
Riverside County EDA

David L. Spaur
County of Monterey

Larry Vaupel
City of Redding

Advisory Board Committee

Mike Daniel
*Orange County Inland Empire SBDC Network
California State University, Fullerton*

Chris Dombrowski
*Governor's Office of Business and Economic
Development*

Lance Hastings
*California Manufacturers & Technology
Association*

Mary Ingersoll
TeamCalifornia

Larry Kosmont
Kosmont Companies

Bob Lanter
CA Workforce Association

Mike Nuby
Southern California Edison

Karen Rich
CA State Office Rural Dev., USDA

Ryan Sharp, CEcD
Venture Catalyst-Economic Development

Jim Simon
RSG, Inc.

David Zehnder
EPS, Inc.

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Jose Medina
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2141
Sacramento, California 94249

RE: Oppose Assembly Bill 485

Dear Assemblymember Jose Medina:

I am writing on behalf of the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) to oppose Assmebly Bill 485 (AB 485). We believe this bill creates an additional burden for communities with no stated benefit, requires businesses to disclose sensitive information, and unfairly targets an industry that is critical to goods movement in California. As the former Chair of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, I know you understand the value of economic development and why we are raising these concerns.

Local agencies are already required to provide certain information and disclose subsidies as part of GASB 77 and AB 562. This bill expands these mandates to include collection of additional data, such as employee wages, job classes, and labor agreement details. Also, it increases the frequency of reporting to annually versus a one-time disclosure. This information is sensitive and should not be made public because competitors could use it to gain an unfair advantage over California businesses.

Additionally, warehouses and distribution centers play a pivotal role in goods movement in California and help solidify our state's role as the gateway for goods to the rest of the country. Singling them out for this level of additional scrutiny may make it more compelling for these businesses to build in other states and use other entry points to move their goods. This makes it more difficult to build or locate warehouses and distribution centers in California which could have a damaging effect on other businesses within their supply chains as well. Pushing these centers to other states would likely increase trucks on our roads, negatively impacting our infrastructure and air quality.

California communities are already operating in a difficult and competitive economic development environment. AB 485 creates a slippery slope where other industries are targeted to provide information – not for the sake of the discloser (as is already provided for by previous legislation), but to further other agendas.

With over 750 members practicing economic development in California, CALED is the voice of the profession in our state. We are dedicated to supporting California communities in growing their local economies. If there is opportunity to do so, we would be pleased to discuss how AB 485 impacts those efforts. If you have any questions, please contact me at 916-448-8252.

Sincerely

Gurbax Sahota
President & CEO

