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California Association for Local Economic Development

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian
California State Capitol, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Sponsor and Support of AB 2605

Dear Assemblymember Nazarian:

The California Association for Local Economic Development is pleased to sponsor and support AB 2605, a bill that resolves several out of date references to the Office of Permit Assistance which previously existed within the Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency. Thank you for your leadership in authoring this legislation.

Finding the right contact at the State for permit assistance is critical for California businesses and economic developers alike. The Office of Permit Assistance, originally created in 1977, was dissolved with the Trade and Commerce Agency via budget trailer bill in 2003. Changes in the State's permit assistance structure over the last fifteen years have left in code, several antiquated references to the old Office of Permit Assistance which no longer exists.

In October 2011, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) was created by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to serve as California's single point of contact for economic development and job creation efforts. Within GO-Biz, there is a Permit Assistance unit that provides permit streamlining for business owners struggling with local, state, and federal permitting.

AB 2605 is necessary because it clears up ambiguity between the old office and the new unit and further clarifies the responsibilities of the GO-Biz Permit Assistance Unit and the Department of Toxic Substances Control. We believe this clarity will make it easier for those who need permit assistance to locate the correct contact at the State and get the help they need to create, expand, or locate their business in California.

Thank you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

Gurbax Sahota
President & CEO

cc: CALED Board, members, and partners