



May 6, 2020

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes  
 Chair, Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy  
 Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 359  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 3205 (Salas): Regions Rise Grant Program – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Cervantes:

On behalf of the above business organizations in the Inland Empire, we write in support to AB 3205, which would establish the Regions Rise Grant Program within the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) for the purpose of enabling regions to collaborate and create interdisciplinary and cross-sector regional strategies to address key regional issues and challenges.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic California’s economy had grown to be the fifth largest economy in the world. But this growth was not shared across the entire state. It was heavily concentrated along our coast. Nearly 70% of job growth from 2010 to 2018 came from the coastal areas around Los Angeles, San Diego, and the Bay Area. In response, GO-Biz launched a Regions Rise Together initiative in collaboration with California Forward. The initiative’s objective is to initiate conversations in specific areas of the state to encourage local government, private businesses, nonprofits and the philanthropic world to work together to identify regional priorities to address shared prosperity through renewed focus and unique partnerships.

AB 3205 creates a framework to advance the mission of GO-Biz by creating an avenue to work with regions to address the growing inequality and challenges to upward mobility we find across the state. The bill creates a pathway to support prosperous regional growth through improved coordination among local agencies and stakeholders. It is the intention that the work of the regions will help inform and guide the state's policies, priorities and actions towards creating an inclusive economic growth agenda.

AB 3205 also provides an opportunity for philanthropic organizations to work with government agencies to address some of the state's most pressing challenges. The strategies created from the work of these collaboratives will better position the regions to seek out and secure federal, state, and private investment currently available across all sectors.

State leaders have indicated that COVID-19 response will be among the specific budget priorities during this time. Support for rebuilding regional economies that are fundamentally more inclusive, a true "California for All", must be central to that plan. Otherwise we will simply be recreating the economic conditions of widespread geographic and ethnic inequities that are aggravating the current crisis. AB 3205 tackles this head on and lays the groundwork for a fundamentally more inclusive economy with more economic resilience for all Californians.

The approach to consensus building and governing reflected in AB 3205 is particularly significant for underserved and under-resourced areas of the state, where capacity to undertake a resource and time intensive process is unavailable. The Regions Rise Grant Program would provide the needed incentive and support to institutionalize an inclusive process at the regional level focused on economic strategies that provide an opportunity for all people in a community to prosper.

For the reasons stated above and others, we urge your support of AB 3205. 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@ieep.com](mailto:lportillo@ieep.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice Moore  
Apple Valley Chamber of  
Commerce

Bette Rader  
Beaumont Chamber of  
Commerce

Zeb Welborn  
Chino Valley Chamber of  
Commerce

Bobby Spiegel  
Corona Chamber of  
Commerce

Joshua Bonner  
Greater Coachella Valley  
Chamber of Commerce

Peggi Hazlett  
Greater Ontario Business  
Council

Cyndi Lemke  
Hemet San Jacinto Chamber  
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Shannon Shannon  
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John Mills  
Redlands Chamber of  
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Dori Jared-Ferranto  
Upland Chamber of  
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Mark Creffield  
Victor Valley Chamber of  
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cc: Assembly Member Rudy Salas