



June 4, 2020

The Honorable Jim Wood
 Chair, Assembly Health Committee
 State Capitol, Room 6005
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2466 (Bloom): California Community Health Fund – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Wood:

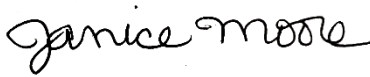
On behalf of the above business organizations in the Inland Empire, we write to express our opposition to AB 2466, which would impose on every distributor a \$0.02 per ounce tax on sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) for the privilege of distributing bottled sugary drinks and concentrate in the state.

Effectively curbing the obesity epidemic and reversing the upward trend will require comprehensive approaches across sectors involving public and private stakeholders at the local, state, and federal level. It does not make sense to pin the blame for complex health issues on SSBs. In fact, consumption of sugar from beverages has been declining over the past decade, while rates of obesity and diabetes increase. Efforts by local governments to impose taxes on SSBs have resulted in an increase in prices without positive health outcomes. It shows that beverage taxes don't make people healthier, but education about balance can.

Proponents of taxes on SSBs often reference the success of cigarette taxes in decreasing cigarette use. However, cigarettes and SSBs differ in a number of ways. First, cigarette taxes increase prices significantly, a tactic that may be unjustifiable for SSBs given that, unlike cigarette use, moderate consumption is considered safe. Second, the many available soda substitutes may render taxes on SSBs ineffective, in that consumers will replace highly-taxed beverages with low-tax alternatives with the same health consequences. For example, in Philadelphia a beverage tax has effectively made a 12-pack of sports drinks more expensive than a 12-pack of beer.

For these reasons and others, we oppose AB 2466. If you have any questions or would like to discussion our position in greater detail, please contact Luis Portillo at 909-944-2201 or by email at 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



Gloria Martinez
Fontana Chamber of
Commerce



Joshua Bonner
Greater Coachella Valley
Chamber of Commerce



Peggi Hazlett
Greater Ontario Business
Council



Cyndi Lemke
Hemet San Jacinto Chamber
of Commerce



Shannon Shannon
Hesperia Chamber of
Commerce



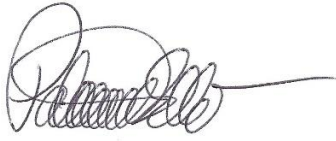
Andrea De Leon
Highland Chamber of
Commerce



Paul Granillo
Inland Empire Economic
Partnership



Oscar Valdepeña
Moreno Valley Chamber of
Commerce



Patrick Ellis
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber
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Jennifer Walker

Jennifer Walker
Perris Valley Chamber of
Commerce

Monique Manzanares

Monique Manzanares
Pomona Chamber of
Commerce



Robert Hufnagel
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber
of Commerce



Mark Creffield
Victor Valley Chamber of
Commerce

cc: Assembly Member Richard Bloom