





December 3, 2020

TO: CA Congressional Delegation and CA Senators

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Dear CA Senators and Representatives:

The California Chamber of Commerce and other organizations listed below represent small businesses throughout California in every industry of the economy and provide hundreds of thousands of jobs that support California workers and their families. We are requesting immediate federal relief to save small businesses in our state who are fighting to survive in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In California, small businesses are struggling to make payroll and a significant number are closing altogether. As recently reported in the Los Angeles Times, California's small business revenue was down by 29.3% in November compared with January 2020, and the number of small businesses open has dropped by 28.8%. With the most recent surge in COVID19 infection that has pushed our hospitals to their maximum capacity, Governor Newsom has issued a renewed shelter in place order that we believe will be catastrophic to the remaining small businesses throughout the state.

Many small businesses depend upon the higher volume of sales during the holiday season to help them throughout the year. Depending upon the product or service they provide, small businesses are either operating at limited capacity or completely shut down and those expected sales will never materialize. To address this emergency, we request the following actions to be taken immediately.

First, extend and expand the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide small businesses with much needed, non-taxable, financial relief. The PPP successfully helped small businesses avoid shutting down as a result of the initial shelter in place orders and can provide that same relief now. We would urge you to allow small businesses to utilize the funding received under the PPP for all businesses related expenses while still allowing the business to qualify for loan forgiveness and to make PPP revenues tax exempt.

Second, we request forgiveness of the federal loan California has received for unemployment benefits, which is now approximately \$20 billion and expected to grow as a result of the recent shelter in place order. California employers will ultimately be responsible for paying this loan back through a reduced Federal Unemployment Insurance Tax Act (FUTA) credit. This essentially is a tax increase on all employers, including small businesses that can least afford it.

Third, we respectfully request that any federal stimulus and aid package include emergency financial support for 501(c)(6) associations, such as state and local chambers of commerce. As the businesses they serve lose revenue, so will these important organizations. Many small businesses rely on these organizations to provide critical information and support during this pandemic and therefore it is essential for these organizations to receive relief.

We appreciate your immediate attention to our request and your efforts to help save the small businesses in California.

Sincerely,



Allan Zaremberg  
California Chamber of Commerce

Alhambra Chamber of Commerce  
Alpine County Chamber of Commerce  
Arcata Chamber of Commerce  
Bear Valley Adventure Company

Bear Valley Music Festival  
Benicia Chamber of Commerce  
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce  
Big Bear Chamber of Commerce

Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau  
Brawley Chamber of Commerce  
Brea Chamber of Commerce  
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce  
Carmel Chamber of Commerce  
Catalina Island Tourism Authority  
Century City Chamber of Commerce  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Claremont Chamber of Commerce  
Clovis Chamber of Commerce  
Corona Chamber of Commerce  
Coronado Chamber of Commerce  
Crescent City/Del Norte Chamber of Commerce & Del Norte Visitor Bureau  
Cupertino Chamber of Commerce  
Cutthroat Brewing Company LLC  
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce  
David Griffith – Alpine County Dist 5 Supervisor  
Dublin Chamber of Commerce  
El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau  
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce  
Escondido Chamber of Commerce  
Fortuna Chamber of Commerce  
Freemont Chamber of Commerce  
Fresno Chamber of Commerce  
Gilroy Chamber of Commerce  
Glendale Chamber of Commerce  
Glendora Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce  
Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce  
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce  
Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce  
Industry Business Council  
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce  
LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce  
Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce  
Mad Dog Cafe

Madera Chamber of Commerce  
Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce  
Monrovia Chamber of Commerce  
Montebello Chamber of Commerce  
Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce  
North Orange County Chamber  
North San Diego Business Chamber  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce  
Orange County Business Council  
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce  
Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce  
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce  
Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce  
Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce  
Regional Chamber of Commerce – San Gabriel Valley  
Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce  
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce  
San Clemente Chamber of Commerce  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
San Leandro Chamber of Commerce  
San Rafael Chamber of Commerce  
San Ramon Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce & industrial League, Inc.  
Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce  
South County Chambers of Commerce  
South County Economic Coalition  
Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce  
Sunnyvale Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce  
The Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce  
The Silicon Valley Organization  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
Trinity County Chamber of Commerce  
Truckee Chamber of Commerce  
Ventura Chamber of Commerce  
Vista Chamber of Commerce  
West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce  
West Valley – Warner Center Chamber of Commerce  
Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce  
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce  
Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

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