



# LOS ANGELES on the Hill

May 2-4, 2011

## Los Angeles is Moving America Forward

One of the world's top trend-setters and the nation's center for entertainment, the Los Angeles area is also a main entry point for global markets, a leader in emerging green industries and a hub for manufacturing. These assets, combined with more than 100 colleges and universities, position our region to create and preserve more than a million jobs.

At a time when the nation's fiscal crisis demands bold action and bipartisan cooperation from our national leaders, the Los Angeles on the Hill delegation is a bipartisan group of business, civic and labor leaders who are working together to advocate for job creation and to ensure that Los Angeles continues to be a driver in the nation's economic recovery.

As Congress and the Obama Administration address the budget deficit, our delegation urges a strategic approach that protects critical priorities and establishes a long-term plan for economic growth. Enclosed, we have identified the priorities we believe are essential components to ensuring future success.

Nearly **25 percent** of global Internet traffic and **more than 17 percent** of U.S. Internet traffic is copyright infringing, resulting in billions of dollars in lost revenue and jobs for key industries. Because of copyright piracy, the U.S. economy loses **\$58.0 billion** in total output annually.

### **23 million people**

live and work in Southern California. If the region were a state it would be the third largest in the country.

### **83,000 jobs**

are supported by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Southern California is continuing to build a 21st century school system. The second-largest employer in L.A. County, LAUSD educates nearly 700,000 students entering college and the workforce each year.

### **400,000 jobs**

are associated with the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The sixth busiest airport in the world, LAX serves nearly 60 million passengers and handles more than 1.8 million tons of freight each year. With one in 20 jobs in Southern California attributed to LAX operations, the airport's annual economic impact is more than \$60 million.

### **\$357.3 billion**

The value of two-way trade passing through Los Angeles County in 2008. (LAEDC)

If just one year's worth of California's high school dropouts could be converted to graduates, the State's economy would accrue an additional **\$40 billion** over the lifetime of the graduating class. This does not include the added economic growth generated from each new dollar put into the economy.

Statistical sources: Institute for Policy Innovation; Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation; Los Angeles World Airports; The Alliance for Excellent Education

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## ■ ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE ■

### Invest in America Fast Forward

America Fast Forward (AFF) is a bipartisan national effort to create a new model for financing transportation infrastructure projects. AFF empowers state and local governments to determine their own priorities and self-help funding mechanisms. The federal government will then accelerate projects through upfront bond and loan programs secured by those local funding sources. This focus on 'Main Street' job creation will put people back to work faster, improve our aging transportation network and will not add to the nation's budget problems.

### Support National Export Initiative and Expanded Small Business Assistance

The National Export Initiative's goal is to double U.S. exports by 2015 by expanding private sector trade advocacy and education, improving access to credit especially for small businesses and remove foreign trade barriers. The federal government will provide \$90 million in grants to states over the next three years to help small business owners start or grow their exporting efforts. By developing a pilot-program for export-focused cities to provide these loans, the assistance can be more targeted and effective.

### Pass Transportation Reauthorization

Politics continue to delay passage of a new multi-year federal transportation bill. This legislation is the strategic framework and funding mechanism for ensuring a 21st century transportation network. Repeated delays hurt our economy and allow for the continued deterioration of our nation's roads, highways and bridges. Now is the time to set a firm deadline and make reauthorization a top legislative action item.

### Support Legislation to Crack Down on Copyright Infringing Websites

A recent study estimates that almost a quarter of global Internet traffic and over 17 percent of U.S. Internet traffic is copyright infringing. That infringement results in billions of dollars in lost revenue and jobs for key industries especially entertainment. Work with the Motion Picture Association of America to pass new legislation that would establish an expedited process for cracking down on websites that are dedicated to infringing activities.

## ■ EDUCATION ■

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

#### Support Investments in Early Learning

Support maximizing federal funding opportunities that will strengthen quality early education in California. The Chamber will continue to encourage the investment in quality early education at local, state and federal levels to promote policies that help young learners succeed and prepare for a 21st century workforce. Support the Administration's proposed \$350 million Early Learning Challenge Fund and the President's budget request for Head Start and \$50 million increase for IDEA infants/toddlers programs. Additionally, support the incorporation of early learning into ESEA.

#### Support Early Learning Challenge Fund

Senator Casey's *Supporting State Systems of Early Learning Act* would establish an Early Learning Challenge Fund to help states build and strengthen systems of early learning, so that more low-income children ages zero to five have access to high-quality early learning and development opportunities that prepare them for success in school and beyond.

### K-12

#### Support Reauthorization of ESEA

Support reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) including the development of standards and authentic, performance-based assessments that embrace 21st century skills in order to make sure students are college ready and prepared for the workforce; additionally, support the incorporation of an accountability based on data systems into ESEA that informs instruction. Support the Administration's shift from compliance orientation to clear goals that will grant more flexibility.

#### Support Linked Learning to Lower Drop Out Rates and Improve College and Career Readiness

Support a linked learning approach that bring together strong academics, demanding technical education and real world experience in order to reduce dropout rates and better prepare students for both college and career. Support the incorporation of linked learning into ESEA. Support Promoting Innovations to 21st Century Careers Act (S. 830, Murray, D-WA).

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## Advocate for Increased Collaboration Between Federal Agencies and Stakeholders

Support federal leadership and policy that incentivizes stakeholders for committing to bold, shared agendas for significant reform centered on student achievement, as illustrated by the recently signed L.A. Compact.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### Maintain Investments in Federal Financial Aid Programs

To improve America's economic growth, job development and global competitiveness, we must invest in increased access to college and post-high school education opportunities, and ensure higher education efficiency and effectiveness. Just as a business must invest wisely to prosper in the future, so must our nation make the investments in the intellectual capital which will be the underpinnings of our future success and economic growth. A college education is the best investment we can make to secure our future. The strength of our nation depends on the strength of our people, who strongly believe that a college degree is the key to achieving their education, training and employment goals.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### Invest in Federal Workforce Development Programs

To ensure that U.S. workers and businesses can continue to access the skills training and employment services they need to sustain our nation's economic recovery efforts, and compete in the 21st century global economy, we support minimizing cuts to federal workforce development programs. If enacted, deep cuts to federal workforce development programs would force the nation's 3,000 One-Stop centers to cut or even eliminate programs and services, diminishing program quality, likely causing thousands of new job losses, and denying services to the more than eight million workers who received Title I WIA-funded services in the last year alone. WIA programs provide vital services for the nation's unemployed, the under-employed, and for America's businesses as they try to rebound from the recession.

## Strengthen the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

As Congress looks to reauthorize Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in 2011 it will be an opportunity to help ensure our nation's workers receive the services and supports they need to go back to work and begin rebuilding our economy. Ensuring that every U.S. worker has at least an industry certification, vocational degree or two years of college should be a national priority.

## Support the Passage of the SECTORS Act

Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) recently reintroduced the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act, legislation that will help grow American industries and provide employment opportunities for America's workers. The bipartisan legislation would support partnerships that allow businesses, unions, educators, and the public workforce system to develop and implement plans for growing a particular industry and helping workers train for jobs and advancement within that industry.

## Support Continued Investments in Federal Youth Jobs Programs

The nation's economic downturn has had the most devastating effect on our country's youth. Unemployment for young people is on the rise, and the numbers for minority youth are even more devastating. Nationally with youth unemployment at record highs; we need to invest in this future workforce so they will gain skills that will last their lifetimes. A year-round or summer jobs program would allow many of these youth to connect with the world of work, gain valuable skills for future careers, and increase their chances today of earning more tomorrow.

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## ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

### Restore PACE for Residential Homes

The Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) helps property owners finance renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements to their homes and businesses. Homeowners can spread out the upfront retrofit costs through an assessment on their property taxes for up to 20 years. The program is funded entirely through private capital with no government loans or subsidies. Unfortunately, the federal government halted the PACE program because in arrear, like all local property taxes, have a senior lien to mortgage payments in the event of a default. Restoring the program will create permanent private sector job, save money for building owners, while increasing the value of their property, promote energy security without increasing energy costs, and improve air quality overall.

### Support the Better Buildings & Race to Green Initiatives

The Better Building Initiative will provide new tax incentives and financing opportunities for improving energy efficiency for commercial buildings. The program will save American businesses \$40 billion a year and be a catalyst to train the new generation of commercial building technology workforce. Race to Green is a key component of the Better Building Initiative, which is a competitive grant process. Modeled after the Race to the Top program that has improved education across the USA, Race to Green aims to encourage state and local jurisdictions to change building codes and streamline the process for retrofitting buildings with energy-saving technology.

### Establish Incentives for Clean Construction Equipment

Establish that the Federal share for the purchase of clean construction equipment shall be increased by 10 percent of the total project cost for any project submitted by a State which contains in the plans submitted for the project, how the construction equipment will be used. The construction equipment must meet the most stringent emissions standards for construction equipment adopted by the EPA or a state that are applicable to equipment manufactured in the year of project construction or earlier.

## HEALTH CARE

### Oppose Implementing a Medicaid Block Grant Program

The House version of the 2012 Budget Resolution reduces overall Medicaid spending by \$1.4 trillion over 10 years, repeals the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid coverage expansion and replaces the current Medicaid entitlement with state block grants. With 2.2 million uninsured residents and 2.3 million Medicaid recipients, Los Angeles County would be severely disadvantaged under a block grant. California already receives far less Medicaid funding, per recipient, than any other state. Additionally, proposed changes will affect California's recently approved Medicaid Waiver, which is a critical tool to expand coverage, improve quality of care, and reform health care delivery through the creation of medical homes, expanded access to primary care and reduced hospital readmissions.

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## HOUSING

### Modernize the Funding Formula of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Throughout the nation, more than 600,000 people are homeless on any given night. Yet, for decades, some communities with significant homeless populations have lost out on millions of dollars in federal funding for homeless solutions because of outdated funding formulas. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is charged with considering revisions to this formula. HUD should create one formula to distribute McKinney-Vento funding to all metropolitan areas in the United States. This formula must be simple and transparent, and must solely utilize key structural determinants of homelessness: poverty, lack of affordable housing and overcrowding.

### HUD Homeless Grants Funding

Support the president's budget proposal of \$2.372 billion for fiscal year 2012, up from \$1.865 billion in FY10 and "to be determined" for FY11. This would provide substantial funding for new permanent supportive housing through the continuum of care, and increases is new Emergency Shelter Grant activity to replace Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing funds. This would help serve all homeless populations.

### Homeless Veterans Vouchers-Plus-Services Proposal

The Homeless Veterans Vouchers-Plus-Services proposal would provide 10,000 HUD-VASH vouchers, which would provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless veterans; and 7,500 vouchers for a housing plus services demonstration program for chronically homeless people and families.

## WATER

### Secure California Water Supply Reliability

Secure federal support for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan including the habitat restoration program and the preferred conveyance alternative identified in the planning process. Obtain commitment from federal agencies to employ real-time monitoring of endangered Delta smelt and salmon to guide project operations, restricting pumping only when species are present. Seek support for Water Resources Development Act authorization for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop integrated habitat/flood control projects in the Delta.

### Protect Colorado River Water Quality and Supplies

Protect and advocate for continued funding of uranium clean-up activities in Moab, Utah to prevent contamination of Colorado River water supplies. Support authorization of a competitive Grant Program for invasive quagga/zebra mussel Research and Development projects, to combat the quagga mussel infestation in Colorado River supplies currently threatening water supply and distribution systems, including pumping and hydropower generation facilities.

### Support Regional Water Supply and Water Quality Projects

Protect and support federal assistance programs that help diversify, extend and improve the quality of regional water supplies through investments in recycling, groundwater reclamation, desalination and water use efficiency. Support Water Resources Development Act reauthorization. Protect Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI Funding.

### Secure Reliable Power Supply from Hoover Dam

Support legislation to renew and extend contracts for power supplies from Hoover Dam, which provides clean, renewable power to the tri-state region of Arizona, California and Nevada. The current contract for power is set to expire in 2017. A new 50-year contract is needed to ensure that Southern California can rely on this resource.

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\* Confirmed as of 04/21/11

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John R. Russell IV, *SNR Denton*

For more information on Los Angeles on the Hill —  
Access Washington, D.C., contact



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

350 S. Bixel St., Los Angeles, CA 90017

P: 213.580.7500 | F: 213.580.7511 | [www.lachamber.com](http://www.lachamber.com)