



# ACCESS

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### LOS ANGELES ON THE HILL

March 5-7, 2012

## 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.



### 920,000

Jobs created nationally if America Fast Forward is implemented as advocated by the Chamber



Studies in Los Angeles show that it is

### 20%

less expensive to place homeless individuals in permanent supportive housing than to leave them on the streets



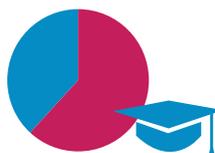
### \$1 billion

in exports equals

### 5,500 jobs

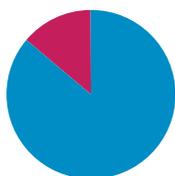
### 389,300

The number of manufacturing jobs in L.A. County – more than any other county in the nation



### 65%

of employers say they will require an associate's degree or higher for most positions in the future



### 15-18%

The amount of U.S. energy that will come from solar energy by 2020 if the Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative is implemented



### 14 million

Jobs in the U.S. that are supported by international travelers



### 50,000

Direct and indirect jobs created by the Los Angeles Air Force Base



## TRANSPORTATION & GOODS MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

### INVEST IN AMERICA FAST FORWARD

America Fast Forward (AFF) is a new model for financing transportation infrastructure that empowers state and local governments to determine their own priorities and self-help funding mechanisms. As included in draft House and Senate reauthorization language, the AFF provision would expand the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan program tenfold. Coupled with an infrastructure bond program, the federal government will have the proper tools to accelerate projects secured by local funding sources; putting people back to work and improving our aging transportation network while not adding to the debt.

### EXPEDITE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

Repeated delays to reauthorization hurt our economy and allowed for the continued deterioration of our nation's infrastructure. A well funded long-term bill provides a strategic framework for ensuring a 21st century transportation network. Priorities include:

- ▶ Increase or maintain current funding levels
- ▶ Maintain federal support for goods movement projects through the Projects of National and Regional Significance Program
- ▶ Consolidate federal programs as outlined in Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century (MAP-21)
- ▶ Maintain competitive grants that enhance effective mobility projects and simultaneously keep our environment clean
- ▶ Make permanent the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) delegation authority given to states, allow substitution of state environmental programs for NEPA
- ▶ Include Breaking Down Barriers Program: HR 2766 (Miller) outlines a number of alterations estimated to expedite the creation of 800,000 jobs nationally.

### SUPPORT LOS ANGELES-SAN DIEGO-SAN LUIS OBISPO RAIL CORRIDOR GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

The Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo rail corridor (LOSSAN)—made up of Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, Metrolink and COASTER and totaling more than 8 million intercity passengers—parallels two of Southern California's most heavily congested freeways. The line has the potential to increase mobility, relieve congestion and improve regional transportation in a corridor that includes San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The transportation agencies along the LOSSAN corridor agree that locally governed management will enhance the success of this line, create synergy among regional transportation providers and improve customer experience.

### ESTABLISH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL

In working to implement Positive Train Control (PTC), freight and passenger rail providers are encountering challenges, including obtaining the necessary spectrum set aside to establish the communications-based network, ensuring interoperability among the various systems, technology availability and rail industry resources. Establishing a national implementation plan and facilitating efficient access to these resources would help the industry implement PTC to prevent deadly collisions.



## REGIONAL ECONOMY

### FULLY STAFF CUSTOMS & BORDER PATROL AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is one of the United States' largest points of entry for foreign visitors, contributing billions of dollars to the economy. Lack of sufficient Customs & Border Patrol (CBP) processing staff during peak arrival times causes significant delays for those arriving in L.A. Recent advocacy on this issue by business has resulted in 20 additional staff over the next year, but only 2/3 of processing booths will be staffed. As LAX moves towards completion of the \$2.3 billion Bradley Terminal modernization—which will add 21 additional booths—unstaffed booths will increase by 50 percent. CBP must continue to fully staff all available processing booths to better welcome all passengers.

### EXPAND VISAS FOR VISITORS

International travelers generate \$1.8 trillion in economic output and support 14 million American jobs. A 6 percent drop in foreign visitors over the last 10 years has highlighted that the United States has not kept pace with global competition for international travel. In order to address global competition for tourists, we need to expand the visa waiver program and expedite visa processing capacity. In L.A., travel from South America—specifically Brazil—would be greatly enhanced and would generate millions in national economic benefit.

### SUPPORT \$2 BILLION ALLOCATION FOR CROSS BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE

Since the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Mexico has become the third-largest U.S. trading partner and the second-largest export market for U.S. businesses. Twenty-two states depend on Mexico as their No. 1 or No. 2 export market. Unfortunately, supply chains often come to a halt due to border delays, security concerns and infrastructure constraints. These issues create an environment of uncertainty and hamper job creation, economic prosperity and supply chain security.

## FULLY COMMIT TO INCREASING EXPORTS

In response to the National Export Initiative's goal to double U.S. exports, Los Angeles has created the Los Angeles Regional Export Council. To assist this effort, the federal government needs to fully commit to an increased level of resources with all agencies acting as a cohesive team. Support funding levels and initiatives in the president's budget, including Export.gov 2.0, SelectUSA, and programs to expand overseas presence and trade enforcement capabilities.

## MAINTAIN LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE

If a new round of military base closures targets the Los Angeles Airforce Base (LAAFB), the regional economy would take a major hit. Accounting for 50,000 direct and indirect local jobs, the base generates \$330 million annually in income taxes to the State. As a research and development hub, LAAFB has spawned many aerospace facilities and a cyberspace workforce. It is a vital asset for a 21st century military.

## SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CRACK DOWN ON COPYRIGHT INFRINGING WEBSITES

The piracy of copyrighted movies and music results in billions of dollars in lost revenue and thousands of lost jobs for key industries in Southern California. Work with the Motion Picture Association of America to revise and pass legislation that would establish an expedited process for cracking down on websites that are dedicated to infringing activities.



## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### Early Education

#### INVEST IN EARLY LEARNING

Provide continued funding for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge, Head Start, Early Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grants.

#### INCORPORATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Support efforts to include and align early learning in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)—including continuing the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge—to ensure that children begin school fully prepared. Efforts to coordinate and integrate early learning and the K-12 system will help develop a seamless alignment.

### K-12

#### PASS REAUTHORIZATION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Support reauthorization of ESEA, including the development of high-quality standards and performance-based assessments. Support science, technology, engineering and math initiatives to ensure

that students are college ready and prepared for the workforce. Support the shift from a prescriptive federal compliance orientation to clear goals that will maintain accountability for all students while granting needed flexibility.

#### INSTITUTE LINKED LEARNING TO LOWER DROP OUT RATES AND IMPROVE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Support linked learning programs that bring together academics, technical education and real world experience in order to reduce dropout rates and better prepare students for college and career. Support the incorporation of linked learning into ESEA. The Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act (H.R. 3154, Thompson) and the Senate companion bill (S. 1686, Casey) will help strengthen the transition from high school to postsecondary education. Additionally, support federal leadership and policy that incentivize stakeholders to commit to bold, shared agendas for significant reform on student achievement.

#### PREVENT HARMFUL CUTS TO ESEA, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT AND OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Congress must enact a balanced deficit reduction plan in order to prevent education programs from being cut under sequestration by 9.1 percent on Jan. 2, 2013. Unless stopped, sequestration will slash Title I grants to high-poverty schools by \$1.3 billion and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act special education state grants by more than \$1 billion, while also cutting funds for teacher quality grants, English language acquisition grants and after school programs.

### Higher Education

#### MAINTAIN INVESTMENTS IN FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Invest in increased access to college and challenge higher education institutions to improve affordability and student success outcomes. As businesses must invest wisely for the future, so must our nation make the investments in intellectual capital. Priorities include: maintaining the current Pell grant maximum award of \$5,550; maintaining investments in student aid and support programs (TRIO and GEAR UP); making permanent the American Opportunity Tax credit; passing the federal Dream Act, supporting comprehensive immigration reform; and maintaining the current subsidized Stafford Loan interest rate at 3.4 percent.

### Workforce Development

#### INVEST IN FEDERAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A skilled and competitive workforce is critical for businesses to grow. State and local employer-led workforce investment boards (WIBs) are a valued partner in this effort. We must continue investment

in efficient and effective programs critical to bolstering the economy and getting people back to work. Priorities include: investing in federal workforce development programs; supporting the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act that focuses on demand-driven, public/private partnerships; and investing in youth job training programs.

### **INVEST IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND JOBS FOR RETURNING VETERANS**

We must provide services to assist in reintegrating eligible veterans into meaningful employment and develop an effective service delivery system that addresses the complex employability problems facing veterans. Priorities include: supporting the implementation of the “Gold Card” to provide unemployed post-9/11 era veterans with intensive and follow-up services; increasing investments in veteran workforce development programs; and continuation of regional “Hiring our Heroes” job fairs.



## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

### **SUPPORT PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY INSTALLATION**

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) allows property owners to pay the high up-front costs for energy efficiency improvements by borrowing from their local government and paying back the money over time via tax assessments. PACE programs nationwide were put on hold in 2010 because of challenges by the Federal Housing Finance Authority, although several cities—including Los Angeles—continue to approve programs locally. HR 2599 would allow homeowners to finance efficiency projects for their homes and commercial businesses.

### **INVESTMENT IN SOLAR DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

- ▶ The SunShot Initiative is the Department of Energy’s plan for bringing solar technology costs down by 75 percent by 2020. This would bring solar energy into cost-competitiveness with other conventional energy forms so that by 2030, 15-18 percent of U.S. energy will come from solar.
- ▶ The 10 Million Solar Roofs Act of 2011 (SB 1108-Sanders) will make rooftop solar installation more cost-effective by providing grants to assist with permitting costs for rooftop installations. The goal is to incentivize the installation of 10 million solar plants on the roofs of homes and businesses by 2020, creating more than 100,000 jobs.
- ▶ Extend the Solar Tax Credit, which allows homeowners to claim a credit for 30 percent of installation costs for solar systems in their residence. Currently all qualifying expenditures must be made on systems prior to Dec. 31, 2016.

### **SUPPORT FOR THE BETTER BUILDINGS INITIATIVE AND RACE TO GREEN**

In 2011, as part of the Better Buildings Initiative, President Obama committed \$4 billion in new investments for energy efficiency updates to more than four billion square feet of public and private office space over the next two years. The upgrades made using these funds are expected to contribute to the Better Building Initiative goal of a 20 percent decrease in U.S. energy consumption by 2020, creating about 114,000 jobs.

### **DEVELOP ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Auto manufacturers are launching dozens of electric vehicles in the next decade. By the end of 2012, 20 models will be available to U.S. consumers, and by 2020 as many as 500,000 vehicles are projected to have been sold in Southern California alone. Battery factories and component suppliers have been built in the U.S., making us a world leader in the production and use of this technology. Congress should include incentives for private investments in recharging/refueling infrastructure in the 2012 Tax Extenders Package to help establish a robust alternative fuel vehicle market and support continuation of the existing Plug-in Electric Vehicle tax credit.

### **CLEANTECH INCUBATOR GROWTH**

Support the Economic Development Administration grant for \$1.8 million from the Department of Commerce for the build-out of the La Kretz Innovation Campus. The La Kretz campus is the permanent home of the L.A. CleanTech Incubator and the Demand-Response Demonstration Lab, a joint initiative of the Department of Energy; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of Southern California. According to an economic impact study, the La Kretz campus will create 600 direct jobs and more than 1,000 indirect jobs in the cleantech field.



## **HEALTH CARE**

### **ENSURE PRACTICAL EMPLOYER GUIDELINES FOR REFORM IMPLEMENTATION**

Implementation of health care reform must include practical guidelines that enable employers to comply with the worker eligibility and essential benefits requirements that become effective in 2014. This will enable health care plans across the nation to be operated consistently, cost-efficiently and effectively to reduce the growth rate in health care spending to sustainable levels over the long term.



## WATER

### **ACT ON BAY-DELTA AND STATE WATER PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS**

Support administrative and legislative action to maintain the Bay Delta Conservation Plan's schedule for the necessary conveyance and ecosystem improvements needed to meet the coequal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration in the Delta.

### **ENABLE REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Support legislation that will enable the development of new local and regional water resources through the authorization of federal programs for recycled water, desalination, groundwater recovery and water use efficiency. Legislation should provide local and regional utilities with the opportunity to compete for grants to fund energy and water conservation projects as well as other programs that help diversify, extend and improve the quality of regional water supplies.

- ▶ Support amendments to the Water Resources Development Act to advance the development of water recycling projects to stretch limited water supplies and improve regional reliability.
- ▶ Support authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program and other federal incentive programs that promote water use efficiency.

### **PROTECT WATER QUALITY**

Support initiatives and federal funding to improve water quality and protect water resources from various constituents, including boron, chromium, nitrate, perchlorate, salinity and uranium, as well as constituents of emerging concern, such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

### **CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES**

Support actions and funding for control and eradication of invasive species, including quagga mussels.

### **SUPPORT HYDROPOWER ENERGY INITIATIVES**

- ▶ Support legislation that provides renewable energy credits for both small and large hydroelectric facilities, irrespective of the facility's nameplate generating capacity.
- ▶ Support legislation that would increase or remove the current 40-megawatt limitation on conduit hydroelectric facilities that can apply for an exemption from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's standard hydroelectric licensing provisions.

## **ENCOURAGE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING**

Support tax-credit financing, tax-exempt municipal bonding and other funding mechanisms to reduce the cost of water supply and other essential infrastructure projects.



## HOMELESSNESS

### **MODERNIZE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT FUNDING FORMULA**

For decades, communities with significant homeless populations have lost out on millions of dollars in federal funding for homeless solutions due to outdated funding formulas. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) should create one formula to distribute McKinney-Vento funding to all metropolitan areas. This formula must be simple and transparent, and must solely utilize key structural determinants of homelessness: poverty, lack of affordable housing and overcrowding.

### **INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS FUNDING**

Support a funding level of at least \$2.2 billion in FY 2013 for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. This 17 percent increase, the largest in more than 20 years, will fund critical programs that house chronically homeless and homeless veterans. With this funding level we could fund all renewals, expand the Emergency Solutions Grant program, fund new Continuum of Care projects and further the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing implementation.

### **OPPOSE EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS (HR 32-BIGGERT)**

HR 32 would expand the definition of homelessness to include families that share housing due to financial hardship. While families who "double up" on housing may be poor, they are not living on the streets. More than 350,000 children are without shelter over the course of a year; if the definition is changed that number will increase by 2.3 million. Numerous programs address families and children living in substandard housing, but identifying such families as homeless will stretch already inadequate resources for the most vulnerable even further.

### **SUPPORT VETERANS AFFAIRS ZERO HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is increasing funding for three programs that are key to ending homelessness for veterans. Overall funding for these programs is rising by \$333 million (33 percent) from 2012 levels to \$1.3 billion. This funding level would bring VA programs very near to the level necessary to completely eliminate homelessness among veterans by 2015, three years from now.

## Thank you to our sponsors

### PLATINUM



### GOLD



**Microsoft**



### SILVER

AT&T  
Automobile Club of Southern California  
BNSF Railway Company  
Cedars-Sinai Health System  
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
Metro  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Port of Los Angeles  
Siemens Corporation  
Southern California Edison  
United Airlines  
Verizon

### BRONZE

Katten Muchin  
Rosenman, LLP  
Mercury Air Group, Inc.  
NBCUniversal  
PB America, Inc.  
Raytheon Company  
Southwest Airlines Co.

\* Confirmed as of 02/22/12

### ACCESS Washington, D.C. — Los Angeles on the Hill is a collaboration of these partnering organizations:

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
City of Los Angeles  
Central City Association  
Los Angeles Business Council  
Los Angeles County Business Federation  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Metro  
Metropolitan Water District  
MoveLA  
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce  
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

### Steering Committee Chair:

Gilbert F. Ivey, *Chief Administrative Officer,*  
*Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

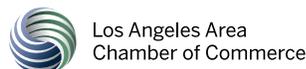
### Lead Staffer:

Jessica Duboff, *Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce*

### Special thank you to the following for their invaluable assistance in planning this year's meetings:

Douglas Boxer, *Boxer & Associates, Inc.*  
Eve O'Toole, *Holland & Knight LLP*  
Kathryn Lehman, *Holland & Knight LLP*

For more information on ACCESS Washington, D.C. — Los Angeles on the Hill, contact Jessica Duboff at 213.580.7558 or [jduboff@lachamber.com](mailto:jduboff@lachamber.com).



350 S. Bixel St., Los Angeles, CA 90017  
P: 213.580.7500 | F: 213.580.7511 | [www.lachamber.com](http://www.lachamber.com)