



# ACCESS

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### LOS ANGELES ON THE HILL

March 11-13, 2013

# Advocating for a Bold Future

A main point of entry for global markets, a hub for manufacturing and a leader in emerging green industries, Los Angeles is one of the world's top trend-setters and the nation's center for entertainment. Today, Los Angeles is also at the center of a technology and innovation renaissance. These economic assets, combined with the area's size and diversity, and the more than 100 area colleges and universities, have positioned Los Angeles to be a national leader in job creation and economic growth.

Our 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 create a bold future for Los Angeles.

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. Our agenda identifies the priorities we believe are essential components to ensuring future success.



## \$1.8 trillion

The positive economic impact of this nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants becoming citizens



## 19 million

Americans employed in intellectual property intensive industries



## 12 of 220

The U.S. is currently only participating in 12 of the 220 Free Trade Agreements



## 13%

Of the homeless population is veterans



## 98,961 new jobs and \$4.4 billion

the economic impact expected from the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in California



## \$50 billion

The amount Southern California will need over the next 25 years to maintain and improve freight and movement infrastructure to meet the nation's import and export demands



## 295,000

Jobs directly or indirectly related to the operation of LAX



## 47%

of California jobs require an education beyond a high school diploma, but only 38 percent of California workers have the skills to fill these positions



## REGIONAL ECONOMY

### **PASS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Comprehensive immigration reform is critical to a vibrant economy. Congress should pass and the president should sign reform that creates a pathway to legalization and citizenship that must be earned. Priorities include:

- ▶ Safeguards to ensure potential citizens are clear of criminal records, English proficient and current with all taxes owed.
- ▶ Provisions to expand the availability of H-1B visas to retain highly skilled workers and guest worker provisions with a reliable verification system to help employers meet the law.
- ▶ Effective border enforcement.

### **CREATE A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

The Los Angeles International Airport directly and indirectly impacts 295,000 jobs and generates more than \$39 billion in Los Angeles County. Each daily, non-stop international flight generates \$623 million in economic value annually. After local approval, the Federal Aviation Administration should approve the Specific Plan Amendment Study in a timely manner, including an appropriate separation of the runways on the North Airfield, which will generate thousands of jobs and pump billions more dollars into our economy with no expense to the taxpayer. Furthermore, U.S. Customs and Border Protection must provide adequate staffing to better welcome all passengers.

### **SUPPORT FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL EXPORT INITIATIVE GOALS**

Trade agreements create export and investment opportunities for California and the rest of the country. The impact of tariff eliminations and related barriers is estimated to increase U.S. GDP by nearly \$12 billion and U.S. goods exports by nearly \$11 billion annually. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a top priority for passage in 2013, followed by the TransAtlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union. Successful implementation of these opportunities supports the president's National Export Initiative to double exports by 2015.

### **SUPPORT "SMART" VISA REFORMS**

When the U.S. issued a visa waiver for South Korea in 2008, visits immediately rose 40 percent. Likewise, when the U.S. State Department deployed more staff into consulates in China in 2012, the wait time for a visa dropped to a week. Federal agencies should work together to implement faster and more efficient travel to the U.S.

### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROTECT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND CRACK DOWN ON COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

Promoting policies that keep pace with 21st century innovation supports the growth of well-paying intellectual property (IP) jobs in trade, entertainment and related industries, preventing the loss of billions in revenue. Congress should work with the Motion Picture Association of America and other stakeholders to maximize website protection and IP enforcement.

### **SELECT CALIFORNIA AS A SITE FOR THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION**

Legislation is being drafted by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) to invest \$1 billion into establishing a national network of manufacturing innovation institutes around the country to serve as regional hubs of manufacturing excellence. Congress should pass this legislation to help make our manufacturing firms more competitive, and thus encourage investment back into the U.S. In the mean time, the president should move ahead with funding three sites by executive order; and, one should go to California.

### **PROTECT FUNDING FOR LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE**

The Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) accounts for 50,000 direct and indirect local jobs, generating \$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 essential to a modern military. With budget cuts, sequestration impacts and shifting programs, Congress needs to recognize the value of LAAFB to the State and our men and women in the military.



## TRANSPORTATION & GOODS MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

### **CREATE AMERICA FAST FORWARD TRANSPORTATION BONDS**

America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds would amend the Internal Revenue Code to establish a new class of qualified tax credit bonds and enable states, cities and transportation agencies to stimulate infrastructure investment and create private sector jobs through the borrowing of capital on favorable terms. These bonds would allow issuers to finance more than twice the dollar value of capital improvements than is possible with traditional tax-exempt bonds. If authorized in the amount of \$4.5 billion annually from 2013-2023, the country could reduce the federal government's share of funding capital projects, leverage private capital and generate 500,000 jobs while constructing a 21st century transportation system.

## **BUILD ON MAP-21 POLICIES FOR GOODS MOVEMENT**

The 2012 surface transportation reauthorization began laying the groundwork to maintain and improve our goods movement infrastructure to meet the nation's import and export demands, but more is needed in the next legislation:

- ▶ Establish a national freight program, with designated Projects of National & Regional Significance.
- ▶ Include water/landside gateways, international borders, and corridor projects; highway, grade-separations, freight rail benefiting passenger rail and port/intermodal projects.
- ▶ Support adequate funding for and implementation of effective infrastructure investments and operational.
- ▶ Advocate for priority to be given to projects that include emission reduction elements and obtain private funds/investment improvements for goods movement mobility and safety.



## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

### **INVEST IN SOLAR DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

- ▶ Update the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Rule 207 to allow "fast track" interconnection of solar generation projects 20 megawatts or less without the imposition of costly and lengthy studies. Doing so would significantly reduce the cost of many solar projects and double the amount of solar wholesale distributed generation capacity eligible for fast track interconnection.
- ▶ Extend existing energy tax incentives over a 10-year period and the production tax credit for an additional year, including an adjustment that allows projects under construction by the end of 2013 to qualify for the incentives such as those outlined in The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.
- ▶ Extend the Residential Solar Tax Credit beyond 2016 to allow homeowners to claim a credit for 30 percent of installation costs for solar systems in their homes.

### **ENCOURAGE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS**

- ▶ Support Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for energy-efficiency installation that allows property owners to borrow money from their local government to pay the up-front costs of energy-efficiency improvements and to pay the money back via property tax assessments.
- ▶ Develop an energy efficiency performance protocol such as the Investor Confidence Project that will accelerate energy efficiency investments by standardizing the process for measuring and predicting energy savings.

## **MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS**

Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) support entrepreneurs who are the backbone of our economy. We need to maintain the \$110 million funding levels for the program nationally, including \$3.6 million for the nine SBDCs in the Los Angeles region. This includes an emerging technology partnership between the L.A. Area Chamber, the Small Business Administration, the L.A. Regional SBDC and the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator.

### **CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL GAS AS A FUEL OF THE FUTURE**

- ▶ Support policies that promote the supply and use of domestic natural gas, including the development of natural gas vehicles and natural gas fueling infrastructure, which will improve air quality, create domestic businesses and jobs, reduce dependence on energy imports and accelerate economic growth.
- ▶ Correct methodological flaws in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory to accurately reflect the low GHG profile of natural gas.
- ▶ Pursue energy policies and incentives that help expand the capture and use of biogas to increase the availability of renewable resources, reduce waste products and improve air quality.

### **SUPPORT THE TRANSFORMATION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER**

Prioritize and complete the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study at the Corps' headquarters and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works in order to restore up to 2,000 acres of habitat along 11 miles of the river, which would create a functional, connected watershed that will be an attractive recreational destination and economic engine for the L.A. region.



## **HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**

### **MAINTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS FUNDING**

Support a funding level of at least \$2.2 billion in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 for the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. In order to continue funding innovative changes to help end homelessness in Los Angeles, it is imperative to protect funding as approved in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act.

### **CREATE MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS**

To improve housing affordability in our region, Congress must reprioritize federal support for housing to assist low-income renters and create workforce housing. There are unique opportunities to support Section 8 and Public Housing reform for the lowest-income families and individuals, including those who are chronically homeless.

## **SUPPORT INNOVATIVE CHANGES TO REDUCE VETERANS' HOMELESSNESS**

The Home for Good initiative to end veterans' homelessness by the end of 2015 is making tremendous progress and should be seen through by ensuring that budget requests for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) homelessness efforts and the HUD portion of the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program are funded. The VA should also have the flexibility it needs to focus on innovative best practices that regularly assess and respond to the needs of veteran homelessness.



### **HEALTHCARE**

## **PROTECT MEDICAID AS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

Successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure broad access to quality health care coverage must include sustained support for Medicaid expansion and for those currently eligible but not enrolled. It is critical to ensure that eligibility and services remain steady while Medicaid expands to enroll newly eligible individuals in 2014. The Medicaid provider tax must be protected as a vital source of funds needed to ensure access to health care services for all Californians.

## **BOOST THE CAPACITY OF PROVIDER NETWORKS**

Greater access to health care coverage and reduced costs cannot be achieved without full provider participation and adequate hospital preparedness. Promoting fair reimbursement rates for primary care and specialty providers will incentivize expansion of the networks available to the millions who will gain coverage under the ACA. Temporary Medicaid payment boosts should be extended beyond their December 2014 expiration date to ensure proper staffing. It is also critical to delay or reduce the impact of proposed Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment cuts due to the uncertainty of the number of remaining uninsured individuals who will potentially continue to utilize local DSHs.

## **PROMOTE INNOVATIONS TO COORDINATE CARE, CONTROL COSTS AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

ACA provisions capping administrative costs will encourage greater use of pilot programs and cost-savings that enhance care. In order to improve the health of our nation and businesses, it is critical to support innovations that encourage delivery of higher quality care while reducing costs – elements that will ultimately allow competition and innovation to thrive in the health care industry. Pilot programs such as the Dual Eligible Integration Demonstration should move forward in Los Angeles County with adequate reimbursement rates in order to provide more streamlined care and payments for vulnerable populations, ultimately improving health outcomes and savings to our system.

## **SUPPORT INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING**

Recent national tragedies have shed light on the need for broad access and reduced stigma related to mental health care. California's strong mental health system can serve as a national model to reduce the possibility of violent and destabilizing behavior while increasing proper treatment of mental illness and substance abuse. Proposals for mental health reform should include as tenets: prevention and early intervention, school-based health centers and integrated comprehensive mental health treatment.



### **WATER**

## **PROTECT AND IMPROVE STATE WATER RELIABILITY**

Build on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) agreement between Gov. Jerry Brown and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. Support administrative, legislative and funding actions to:

- ▶ Facilitate the development and approval of the BDCP in 2013 to meet California's co-equal goals of a more reliable water supply and an improved Delta ecosystem.
- ▶ Advance emergency response measures and near-term projects in the Delta to address immediate water quality, water supply, flood protection and ecosystem needs.

## **SUPPORT ENERGY AND HYDROPOWER INITIATIVES**

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

## **INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING**

Support existing federal infrastructure financing programs that leverage local resources to reduce the cost of water supply improvement projects, such as tax-credit financing and tax-exempt financing, and support the authorization of the proposed Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovations Act of 2012.



### **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

## **PREVENT HARMFUL CUTS TO EARLY LEARNING AND K-12**

Prevent harmful cuts to early learning, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individual with Disabilities Education Act and the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Congress should enact a balanced deficit reduction plan to prevent sequestration impacts to California's most vulnerable students.



## Early Education

### STRENGTHEN EARLY EDUCATION WORKFORCE AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAMS

- ▶ Support the president's efforts to provide quality early learning to those most in need.
- ▶ Support efforts to include and align early learning in the ESEA to ensure that children begin school fully prepared.
- ▶ Support efforts to strengthen the early childhood education workforce by creating career ladders and opportunities for higher-wage workers within the field.
- ▶ Support efforts to expand children's health programs to ensure students are ready to learn.

## K-12

### PASS REAUTHORIZATION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

- ▶ Support reauthorization of the ESEA, including the development of high-quality standards and performance-based assessments.
- ▶ Support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) 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 DROPOUT RATES AND IMPROVE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

- ▶ Support reauthorization of the ESEA, including 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. Additionally, support federal leadership and policy that incentivize stakeholders to commit to bold, shared agendas for significant reform on student achievement.

## Higher Education

### REDESIGN FINANCIAL AID POLICIES TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES AND MAINTAIN INVESTMENT IN FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID AND HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Redesign financial aid policies to challenge higher education institutions to improve affordability and student success outcomes, while investing in increased access to college. As businesses must invest wisely for the future, so must our nation make the investments in intellectual capital. Priorities include:

- ▶ Redesign federal financial aid programs to focus on student access and success.
- ▶ Maintain maximum investment in the Pell grant program.

- ▶ Maintain investments in student aid and support programs (TRIO and GEAR UP).
- ▶ Make the American Opportunity Tax credit permanent.
- ▶ Pass the federal DREAM Act and supporting comprehensive immigration reform.
- ▶ Support investments in higher education research.
- ▶ Preserve current student loan interest rates.

## Workforce Development

### ADOPT A BALANCED APPROACH TO DEFICIT REDUCTION BY MINIMIZING CUTS TO DISCRETIONARY 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, a skilled and competitive workforce is critical for our businesses to succeed and grow. State and local employer-led workforce investment boards are a valued partner in this effort. It is vital that we continue to invest in efficient and effective workforce development programs which are critical to bolstering the nation's economy and getting people back to work. Priorities include:

- ▶ Maintain investments in federal workforce development programs.
- ▶ Support the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.
- ▶ Support critical investments in youth job training programs.

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

To ensure that Los Angeles is prepared to address the needs of returning veterans, it is vital we provide the resources and services to assist in reintegrating eligible veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force; and to stimulate the development of an effective service delivery system that addresses the complex employability problems facing veterans. Priorities include:

- ▶ Support the implementation of the "Gold Card" to provide unemployed post-9/11 era veterans with the intensive follow-up services needed to succeed in today's job market.
- ▶ Increase investments in veteran workforce development programs and services.
- ▶ Continue support for regional "Hire Our Heroes" job fairs designed to educate and promote success strategies for sourcing, recruiting, hiring, and supporting America's military service members, veterans and their families.

## Thank you to our sponsors

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## BOLD IN BUSINESS FOR 125 YEARS

Since 1888, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has championed the needs of the business community and the citizens of the L.A. region. From serving as the voice of the business community in the halls of government to promoting economic development and fostering collaboration throughout the community, the Chamber has worked to ensure economic prosperity and a good quality of life in our region. Now the region's leading business advocacy organization, we have never wavered from enterprising leadership, audacious visions and steady perseverance. Join us this year as we celebrate 125 years of being bold in business. Our past is bold and our future will be bolder.



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