



ACCESS

Washington, D.C.

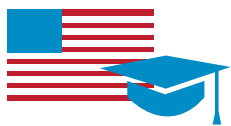
LOS ANGELES ON THE HILL
March 10-12, 2014

IMMIGRATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRADE

As a main point of entry for global markets, a hub for technology and innovation and home to more than 16 million people (3.5 million of whom are immigrants), the Los Angeles region is one of the world's economic trend-setters. These assets, combined with more than 100 area colleges and universities, have not only made L.A. an immigrant gateway, but also have positioned the region to be a national leader in job creation and economic growth.

The ACCESS Washington, D.C. delegation is a bipartisan group of business and civic leaders who are working together to create a bold future for L.A. With our nation's fiscal status still demanding action and bipartisan cooperation from national leaders, our delegation urges Congress and the Obama Administration to take a strategic approach that establishes a long-term plan for economic growth through immigration, infrastructure and trade.

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



1.8 million

Dreamers – immigrants in the U.S. who could become eligible for the Obama Administration's "deferred action" initiative for unauthorized youth brought to this country as children.



66 million

passengers served by Los Angeles International Airport annually.



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.



\$50 billion

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



25 million

people who rely on the Bay Delta's aging and fragile system for drinking water that could breach in a major earthquake or flood event.



12 of 220

is the number of Free Trade Agreements the U.S. is currently only participating in throughout the world.



51,000

people who go homeless in L.A. each night.



77,000

new jobs immigration reform will create in California.



REGIONAL ECONOMY



Pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Comprehensive immigration reform is critical to a vibrant economy. Priorities include:

- ▶ Effective border enforcement
- ▶ A pathway to legalization and citizenship that must be earned
- ▶ 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

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. Eliminating tariffs and related barriers will increase U.S. GDP by nearly \$12 billion and U.S. exports by nearly \$11 billion annually. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a top priority for passage in 2014, 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 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.

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.

Reauthorize the U.S. Export-Import Bank

With 95 percent of the world's consumers living outside the United States, it is imperative for policy makers to support the export of U.S. products. The Export-Import Bank of the United States plays a vital role in helping American companies compete on a level playing field in the global marketplace.

Export-import:

- ▶ Plays an important role in supporting and creating U.S. jobs
- ▶ Supports more small businesses than large businesses
- ▶ Generates a large amount of export revenue for the U.S. trade balance
- ▶ Operates at no cost to U.S. taxpayers
- ▶ Supports a large number of aerospace supplier companies
- ▶ Helps U.S. exporters compete with foreign firms that have their own export credit agencies

Support a Light Rail Connection to Los Angeles International Airport

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the third busiest in the U.S. and the No. 1 origin and destination airport in the world. It serves more than 60 million passengers annually and generates more than \$40 billion in economic activity in L.A. However, unlike other major international airports in the U.S., LAX lacks direct light rail access to its facilities. An evaluation process is underway by Metro and Los Angeles World Airports to identify alternatives to finally integrate L.A.'s rail system and LAX. Expediting multi-agency federal approval and identifying funding opportunities once a preferred project has been locally identified will help reduce project costs and delays, improve mobility in the region and provide travelers with the level of transportation access they expect and deserve when visiting a world-class city and a gateway to Asia and Latin America.





ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Modernize Air Standards to Help Maintain Essential Public Services

Over the past few decades, Los Angeles has made significant progress in cleaning its air despite major increases in population, vehicle traffic and manufacturing output. Yet even with the strictest pollution control requirements in the nation, our region will struggle to attain tightening federal air quality standards under existing regulations. Rigid and outdated standards are impacting our region's ability to maintain back-up power for essential public services like police and fire and threaten to dampen the competitiveness of our regional economy.

Continue Development of Natural Gas as a Fuel of the Future

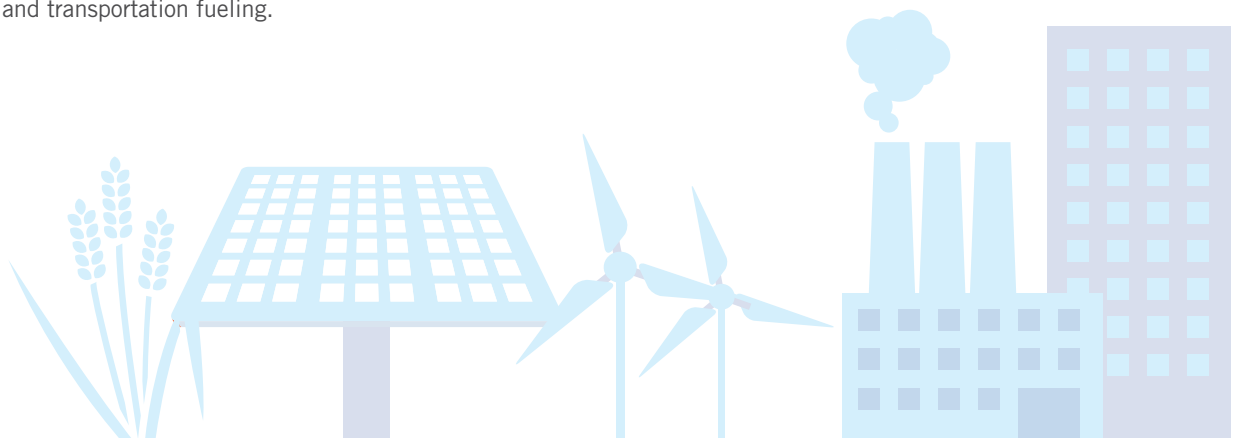
- ▶ Support policies that promote the use of domestic natural gas, including new distributed generation applications like combined heat and power, micro-turbines and fuel cell technologies, and the development of natural gas vehicles and complimentary fueling infrastructure. These policies will improve 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.
- ▶ Promote allocation of research and development resources in the energy and defense departments towards advanced natural gas applications for direct energy use, power generation and transportation fueling.

Invest in Renewable Energy Development and Storage Technology

- ▶ Advocate for Congress to pass legislation to extend the Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credits (PTC) for wind, biomass, geothermal and hydroelectric, which was allowed to expire on Dec. 31, 2013.
- ▶ Support provisions in tax extenders that would replace the Business Energy Investment tax credit's "placed-in-service requirement" with a "commence construction" standard – as Congress has done with the renewable electricity production tax credit. Doing so would allow the solar industry to make full and effective use of the 30 percent ITC through 2016.
- ▶ Promote long-term investment in solar energy development by extending the 30 percent business energy investment tax credit for solar beyond 2016.
- ▶ Support bi-partisan legislation that provides research & development funding and tax credits for energy storage and advanced grid technologies.

Promote 21st Century Energy Efficiency and Advanced Technologies

- ▶ Consider new opportunities provided by the recent expansion of the Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge to include multifamily housing and the launch of three better buildings accelerators intended to address market and technical barriers to investment in energy efficiency.
- ▶ Extend the residential energy efficiency tax credit and energy-efficient new homes tax credit for home builders, both of which expired at the end of 2013 to encourage investment in energy efficient homes.





Protect Appropriations for Homelessness Funding

As Los Angeles recovers from sequestration cuts which temporarily hindered and slowed progress in ending chronic and veteran homeless in Los Angeles, we urge Congress to continue funding innovative changes to advance our work and protect funding as approved in the HEARTH Act of 2010. We encourage Congress to support a funding level of at least \$2.3 billion in FY 2015 for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants.

Create More Affordable Housing Options

To improve housing affordability in our region, we 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 to work for the lowest-income families and individuals, including those who are chronically homeless. Federal Housing Choice vouchers must be restored to pre-sequestration levels in FY 2015. California saw a reduction in 10,000 families assisted through these programs as a result of cuts.

Support Innovative Changes to Reduce Veterans' Homelessness

The Opening Doors plan to end veterans' homelessness by 2015 is making tremendous progress and should be supported by funding the budget requests for Veterans Affairs (VA) homelessness efforts, the Housing and Urban Development portion of HUD-VASH, and Supportive Services for Veteran Families programs for rapid rehousing for veterans and their families. The VA should also have the flexibility it needs to focus on innovative best practices to respond to the needs of the veteran homelessness.

Maintain Medicaid as an Important Component of ACA

Successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) must include sustained support for Medicaid expansion. The Medicaid provider tax is a vital source of funds to ensure access to health care services for all Californians and must be protected. While we are grateful that funding has been secured for half of 2014, we hope that federal agencies will work with California officials to rapidly approve future funding.

Enhance the Capacity of Provider and Hospital Networks

Wide 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 for the millions who will gain coverage. Additionally, we urge Congress to increase funding for graduate medical education that will benefit both academic medical centers and children's hospitals. Increased access to providers to meet new demand in L.A. will be essential to ensuring the promise of coverage under the ACA is made real.

Promote Innovations to Coordinate Care, Lower Costs and Improve Outcomes

We support innovations that encourage delivery of higher quality care while reducing costs - elements that will ultimately stimulate competition and innovation in the health care industry. Pilot programs such as the dual eligible integration demonstration and medical homes should move forward in Los Angeles County with adequate reimbursement rates and monitoring for quality in order to provide more streamlined care and improve health outcomes and savings.

Protect Access to Medicare Advantage Plans

The Chamber is committed to preserving the viability and continuity of trusted, meaningful coverage offered through Medicare Advantage (MA) plans for retirees. More than 40 percent of Southern California Medicare beneficiaries have selected a MA plan and many Southern California employers and individuals rely on MA plans for the additional value and protection from catastrophic health care expenses that such MA plans provide. Therefore, we urge the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to hold 2015 reimbursement rates steady to avoid undermining the health care coverage long-trusted and valued by millions of retirees and employers. Further cuts to MA rates would only jeopardize care for the millions of Americans and employers who now enjoy MA plans.



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY



Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform to Build Skilled Workforce

Los Angeles and the nation need sensible, comprehensive immigration reform to grow our booming technology industry with new entrepreneurs and secure a globally competitive future workforce. Congress should establish a streamlined immigration process for future workers and entrepreneurs, including modifications to the guest worker program for an increase in the number of H-1B visas and creation of a new STEM green card category.

Protect Company and Proprietary Data

Information technology and service companies should be able to comply with government data collection needs while balancing their right to protect sensitive and proprietary consumer data. Consumer data provided to information technology and service companies is the basis of a trusting relationship between customers and businesses. Thus, it is critical to establish clear policies and guidelines for data-gathering, which will allow companies to safeguard consumer information and their own competitive data advantages.

Reform Patent Law to Encourage Innovation

Entrepreneurs should be encouraged to focus on building their products and companies without the constant threat of patent trolls and extortion attempts. The Senate should pass comprehensive patent reform legislation to curb the activity of patent assertion entities by shifting the burden of proof and payment onto the aggressors and limiting the liability of end users in court findings.

Increase Government Open Data and Transparency

Government data has the potential to revolutionize industries and stimulate entrepreneurs to create innovative new solutions and services. It is imperative to encourage greater government transparency and information sharing to unlock the potential for imaginative and data-driven outcomes by public and private entities.

Increase Targeted Investments in High-Growth Industries

With 900 service sites across the country, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide key touch points for small businesses and entrepreneurs to gain mentorship and assistance in growing their companies. Congress should increase targeted investments of federal resources toward SBDCs which focus on advising companies in high-growth industries.

TRANSPORTATION & GOODS MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE



Expedite Transportation Reauthorization

The looming expiration of MAP-21 and the projected deficit for the Highway Trust Fund jeopardizes our national and regional economies and is leading to the continued deterioration of our nation's infrastructure. A well-funded, long-term reauthorization bill is needed to ensure a 21st century transportation network. Priorities include:

- ▶ Create America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds that states, cities and transportation agencies can use to build infrastructure projects and create private sector jobs.
- ▶ Support reasonable and feasible efforts to make the federal highway trust fund solvent – given that the trust fund is facing, according to the Congressional Budget Office, a shortfall of \$172 billion over the next decade.
- ▶ Support H.R. 3620 (Bass) which would permit transportation agencies to consider the hiring of local workers in the evaluation of bids and proposals for highway and transit projects that are paid for in part by federal funds.
- ▶ Support robust funding for programs that help fund critical transportation infrastructure projects like the federal New Starts program, TIGER grant program and TIFIA loan program.
- ▶ Fund non-motorized transportation infrastructure projects like the revitalization of the L.A. River, which would improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility and provide much-needed urban recreational space in one of the densest and largest industrial cities in the U.S.

Expand on MAP-21 Policies for Goods Movement

MAP-21 began laying the groundwork for a National Freight Strategic Plan to support the nation's global competitiveness, but more is needed to help create a robust 21st century national goods movement system. Priorities include:

- ▶ Expand on the Primary Freight Network (PFN) designation by developing a more comprehensive, multimodal national freight network that encompasses urban corridors, highways, key arterials, freight rail, seaports, land ports of entry, freight intermodal connectors and airports.
- ▶ Establish a dedicated, sustainable funding program for multimodal freight Projects of National and Regional Significance (PRNS) located in key corridors and gateways. Provide added consideration for projects that deploy clean freight technologies, leverage private investment and improve mobility and safety.
- ▶ In the Water Resources Development Act, support equitable return of funds to Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) donors through reforms such as expanded use of HMT funds for maintenance berth dredging and associated sediment disposal.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Early Education

Strengthen and Expand Early Education and Children's Health Programs

- ▶ Support the president's efforts to provide quality early learning to those most in need.
- ▶ Expand early childhood education programs while also ensuring quality.
- ▶ Support the Strong Start For America's Children Act (H.R. 3461/S. 1697).
- ▶ Align early learning in Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to ensure children begin school fully prepared.
- ▶ Strengthen the early childhood education workforce by creating career ladders and opportunities for higher-wage workers within the field.
- ▶ Expand children's health programs including childhood obesity prevention to ensure students are ready to learn and create a strong workforce pipeline.
- ▶ Extend and expand evidence-based, voluntary home visiting.

K-12

Pass Reauthorization of Perkins and Elementary and Secondary Education Act

- ▶ Support reauthorization of Perkins and ESEA, including the development of high-quality standards and performance-based assessments.
- ▶ Support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) 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 and Perkins, to incorporate linked learning that integrates rigorous academics with career based learning and real world workplace experience in order to reduce dropout rates and better prepare students for college and career.

- ▶ Support the incorporation of linked learning into ESEA as proposed to Congress in 2011 in Education for Tomorrow's Job Act (H.R. 3154 and S. 1686) to promote meaningful integration of academics with career and technical education.

Higher Education

Raise the sequester level budget caps to provide needed investments in research and development programs

The U.S. is facing an innovation deficit - the gap between what we spend on research and development and what we should be spending to stay ahead of our international competitors. Under sequestration, federal agencies that fund research and development saw their budgets cut by 5 percent. L.A. area research institutions play a key role in research that leads to innovative solutions to social problems, breakthroughs in medicine, innovations in technology, etc.

Provide immigration relief and support for Dreamers

- ▶ Provide immigration relief to undocumented students by passing the federal DREAM Act, and enacting comprehensive immigration reform.
- ▶ Help more than 1.8 million Dreamers by supporting the IN-STATE for Dreamers Act of 2014 to provide \$750 million over a decade in need-based financial aid to states that provide in-state tuition and financial aid to undocumented students.

Reauthorize Higher Education Act

As businesses must invest wisely for the future, our nation must make investments in intellectual capital to ensure our future economic prosperity. As Congress begins to consider the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the Chamber supports efforts to incentivize innovation in higher education, to challenge institutions to improve affordability and student success outcomes, while investing in increased access to college, particularly for low-income and underrepresented students. Priorities include:

- ▶ Support reauthorization of the Higher Education Act with an emphasis on promoting equity for students pursuing post secondary education.
- ▶ Simplifying and redesigning federal financial aid programs to focus on student access and success.



- ▶ Maintaining maximum investment in need-based aid (PELL), and student support programs such as TRIO and GEAR UP that have been shown to narrow persistent access and achievement gaps.
- ▶ Support efforts to spur innovations in higher education, including the adoption of competency-based education models to tailor programs to individual student needs to improve current completion rates.

Workforce Development

As we develop funding priorities and policies for economic recovery and beyond, we must make sure that investments in training and education are targeted to meet the full range of skills needed by local industries.

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 global economy, a skilled and competitive workforce is critical. State and local employer-led workforce investment boards are a valued partner in these endeavors. It is vital to:

Reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act

- ▶ Support the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S.1356) passed by the Senate HELP Committee on an 18 to 3 vote which retains this most successful and critical element of business-led local workforce investment boards; support key amendments such as the SECTORS Act.

Invest in Workforce Development Programs

- ▶ Continue to build on bipartisan progress to find a permanent solution to future sequester cuts to workforce development programs.
- ▶ Support the President's "Opportunity for All" call to action and the \$150 million in federal support for "Ready to Work" partnerships to prepare and place the long-term unemployed into good jobs.

Adopt Policies to Meet the Skilled Workforce Needs of U.S. Business and Industries

- ▶ Provide resources and services to assist in reintegrating eligible veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force.
- ▶ Support critical investments in youth employment training programs.

Improve the Reliability of California's Water Supply

Support administrative, legislative and funding actions to:

- ▶ Finalize and secure secretarial approvals of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) with a final Record of Decision in 2014 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.

Expedite California Drought Federal Response Actions

Support administrative actions and funding to respond to historic drought conditions in California, including:

- ▶ Support for U.S. Secretary of Interior and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to declare emergency disaster designations for regions severely impacted by drought.
- ▶ Support funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies to support enhanced water conservation and drought mitigation efforts.

Invest in Infrastructure Financing

Support administrative, legislative and funding actions that promote local water resources development, including:

- ▶ Expedited funding and approvals for programs that locate, study and clean-up hazardous waste that can enter groundwater aquifers.
- ▶ Funding for programs that help consumers make efficient water decisions.
- ▶ Support funding for programs to reclaim and reuse wastewater to expand local water supplies.
- ▶ Support regulatory actions and funding that advance capture and treatment of stormwater to expand local water supplies.

Don't miss the...

Los Angeles Congressional Water Briefing

Responding to the California Drought –
Water Reliability Now and For the Future

Wednesday, March 12 | Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-338,
45 Independence Ave. SW

*Hosted lunch included. Special RSVP required with
Frank Lopez, flopez@lachamber.com.*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PRESENTING



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER

AT&T
Automobile Club of Southern California
The Boeing Co.
Cedars-Sinai Health System
Parsons Corporation

Port of Long Beach
Port of Los Angeles
Southern California Edison
United Airlines

BRONZE

BNSF Railway Company
Los Angeles World Airports
Mattel, Inc.
Mercury Air Group, Inc.
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc.
Southwest Airlines Co.
Union Pacific Railroad Co.
Verizon – Southern California

* Confirmed as of 02.25.14

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
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Business Council
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Los Angeles Unified School District
Metro
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Mobility 21
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
University of Southern California
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

Steering Committee Chair:

Gilbert F. Ivey, *Assistant General Manager/Chief Administrative Officer, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

Lead Staff:

Ruben Gonzalez, *Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Political Affairs, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce*

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

Eve O'Toole, *Holland & Knight LLP*
Leslie Pollner, *Holland & Knight LLP*
Robert H. Philibosian, *Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP*
David Herbst, *Vectis*

For more information on ACCESS Washington, D.C. — Los Angeles on the Hill, contact Ruben Gonzalez, 213.580.7568 or rgonzalez@lachamber.com.