



TUESDAY | March 27, 2007

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:



Southern California is a National Asset



Coming up at the Chamber

[View all upcoming events on our Web calendar.](#)

MON-WED | March 26-28
Access Washington, D.C.
[more info](#)

THU | March 29
Export Seminar Series:
Getting Paid For Export Sales
[more info](#)

FRI | March 30
International Trade &
Investment Committee
[more info](#)

WED | April 4
Small Business Owners
Roundtable
[more info](#)

THU | April 12
Export Seminar Series: Legal
Do's and Don'ts For Exporters
[more info](#)

FRI | April 13
Health Care Committee
Meeting
[more info](#)

WED | April 18
International Trade &
Investment Committee
[more info](#)

THU | April 19
Land Use, Construction &
Housing Committee Meeting
[more info](#)

THU | April 19
Education & Workforce
Development Committee
Meeting
[more info](#)

THU | April 19
The Connection Point
Preparing and Planning for
Networking
[more info](#)

FRI | April 20
Executive for a Day
[more info](#)

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org

350 S. Bixel St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.580.7500 tel
213.580.7511 fax
info@lachamber.org

Lobbying trips to Washington, D.C. are not unusual. Thousands of interest groups descend on the nation's capital every year to meet with members of Congress and administration officials. So what makes this week's Access Washington, D.C. trip different?

Nearly 200 business and civic leaders—the largest-ever delegation of bipartisan Southern California leaders in the L.A. Area Chamber's history—are in Washington, D.C. today to advocate on behalf of Southern California's 18 million residents.

For the first time in decades, our region traveled together to our nation's capitol to collectively [advocate on issues that matter to all of us](#). Those issues include increased investment in highways, public transportation and rail for residents, tourists and cargo containers; a fair distribution of homeland security funding to our gateway ports and airports; increased investment in student financial aid, career academics and workforce development; assistance with major urban challenges like health care, gangs and affordable homes; and tax and piracy issues that face all U.S. businesses as they compete around the world.

When so many engaged citizens and leaders from across the political spectrum join together with one common purpose, the results can be far-reaching.

The message is loud and clear: Southern California is a national asset. No other region is more integral to the United States' success in the global marketplace, delivers more goods to the rest of the country or sends more tax dollars to our nation's capital than Southern California. International trade defines our region, with \$293.9 billion flowing through the Los Angeles Customs District annually—the largest in the nation. The federal government should and must partner with us as we invest in our future.

The [chorus of regional voices](#) includes L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle, Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton, Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent David Brewer III, several L.A. City Councilmembers, along with business and civic leaders from Santa Clara to San Clemente.

Washington, D.C. lawmakers, who traditionally view Southern California as an unorganized constituency, now understand that the strength of our voice matches the strength of our economy. When so many engaged citizens and leaders from across the political spectrum join together with one common purpose, the results can be far-reaching in Washington, D.C. and in Sacramento.

Access Washington, D.C. sets the stage for Southern California to feature prominently in upcoming appropriations bills and other important federal legislation. I look forward to reporting back on substantive developments of this week and encourage each one of you to join us in Sacramento in May as we communicate the same message to our state lawmakers.

And that's *The Business Perspective*.

Gary L. Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

The Business Perspective is a weekly opinion piece by Gary Toebben, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, produced with the input of Senior Policy Advisor Rusty Hammer.

by Gary Toebben,
President &
CEO, Los
Angeles Area
Chamber of
Commerce

L.A. Business THIS WEEK

View the latest issue of the Chamber's [weekly email newsletter](#). [Contact us](#) to subscribe.

Powered by



Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, 350 S. Bixel St., Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.580.7500 | fax: 213.580.7511 | info@lachamber.org | www.lachamber.org

[Modify](#) your profile or [unsubscribe](#) from this list automatically. If you request to be taken off this list, the L.A. Area Chamber will honor your request pursuant to [CoolerEmail's](#) permission-based email terms and conditions.