



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LA AREA CHAMBER FIGHTS FOR L.A.'S FAIR SHARE IN D.C.

***Southern California's leading business organization
advocates for federal funds and support in regional growth issues***

WHO: 52 business leaders from across the L.A. region, including Chamber Board Chair **Chris Martin**, Chamber Board Immediate Past Chair **George Kieffer**, and representatives from member organizations and local chambers of commerce including **Majestic Realty Co., Metro, Port of Los Angeles, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, SBC** and **Toyota**.

WHAT: **Access D.C.:** The L.A. region's premier lobbying trip to the nation's capitol, including breakfast with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez; luncheon with the California Congressional Delegation; lobbying appointments with White House officials, regulatory agencies & Members of Congress

WHEN: April 17-20, 2005

WHERE: Washington, D.C.

WHY: Since 1888, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has led efforts to secure federal dollars for local infrastructure projects that have fueled this region's emergence as a world economic leader. Today, through leadership and collaboration with other civic organizations, the LA Area Chamber seeks to increase L.A.'s influence on the legislative process and educate policymakers about our region's vital role in the national economy. Key priorities include:

- **Securing L.A.'s fair share:** L.A. receives back only 79 cents on every tax dollar sent to D.C., despite our transportation infrastructure crisis and key role as the gateway of 43% of the nation's imports.
- **Retaining L.A. Air Force Base:** LAAFB generates \$8 billion in economic activity in L.A. County. Since 1988, California has lost 93,456 military and civilian jobs, which was 55 percent of the nation's net personnel cuts due to base closures.
- **Restoring the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP):** 40 percent goes to California to help pay for prosecuting and imprisoning violent criminal aliens.
- **Advancing regional transportation priorities:** including federal approval of the LAX Consensus Plan, addition \$80 million for completing of the Metro Gold Line extension, and earmarking future funds for public transportation projects.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with 1,400 members, represents the interests 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.