



SAN FRANCISCO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *Where smart business starts.*

June 27, 2012

The Honorable Governor Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1339 Support

Dear Governor Brown,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing 1,500 local businesses, urges you to support SB 1339 (Yee). This legislation, sponsored by Senator Yee and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, proposes to build on the success of a commuter benefit ordinance that was adopted by the City of San Francisco in August 2008. We supported the ordinance because it allows employers to choose for themselves which type of commute benefit they would like to offer. The result is a win-win whereby the employer saves on federal payroll taxes, the employee saves on their commuting expenses and we are all better off as a result of lower traffic congestion and better air quality.

As evidence of businesses support for this program, Macy's and Payless Shoesource both opted to expand their program to all their employees nationwide, after being required to offer them in San Francisco. Similarly, American Airlines, Delta Airlines and Continental Airlines have all chosen to offer commute benefits nationwide after the San Francisco International Airport adopted their own regulation.

While California's economy is still in the early stages of economic recovery and our state is struggling to close an ongoing deficit, SB 1339 is a small step the Legislature can take to lower the cost of commuting for Californian residents and advance our climate protection goals, all without raising taxes or otherwise harming economic growth. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce urges you to sign SB 1339 into law.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President
Public Policy
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Tom Addison