



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Jim Cooper
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4 on State Administration
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Proposed GoBiz Inland Empire Position - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Cooper:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support the Governor's proposed investment to fund a Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GoBiz) Regional Specialist in the Inland Empire, to provide a focus on bringing business and economic development by promoting the benefits of these regions and facilitating business expansion.

The County's strategic location and assets is an attractive choice to investors who are looking for creative ways to structure deals that yield strong market returns. Promoting the benefits of our County and the Inland Empire to large investors and employers often requires an individual with strong and internal relationships at a state and federal level to manage the myriad of state available incentives and programs to promote cross-agency collaboration, educate, guide, and partner with local governments.

The County has the second-highest number of Opportunity Zones (OZ) in California. While the OZ incentive could have a significant impact on our region, a creative approach is required to accelerate financial confidence and access to capital. A regional specialist can support employers, corporate executives, business owners, and site location consultants who are considering California for business investment and expansion with priority directed at such OZ's.

For the reasons listed above, the County supports an Inland Empire GoBiz position. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Director, at 909 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chair, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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