

Date, 2012

State Senator/State Legislator
Office
Room
City, State

RE: Support for California Enterprise Zones

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to express support for the California enterprise zone (“EZ”) program and to encourage you to vote against any current proposals to eliminate the program as part of the budgeting process. As a company CEO and small business owner in your community, and also as a concerned citizen of this state, I discourage the elimination of the only direct tax incentive aimed at encouraging investment and employment in the state.

Your district includes enterprise zones, and constituents who have benefitted by the statutory tax credits and deductions allowed under the EZ program, including our institution and many of our customers. These constituents range from small businesses to larger employers – all of whom contribute to employment in our area. Further, our community has invested time, effort, and significant cost to secure an EZ and has entered into a contract with the state to provide for an EZ for a 15 year period. You need to look no further than downtown revitalization to see some of the benefits of the redevelopment and the EZ program in our community in recent years. But there is still more work to be done in this community and throughout the state.

One doesn't have to look far to see evidence of companies that have shut down or left California in recent years, including Boeing, Nissan, Nummi, and Hilton Hotels, to name a few. There are also smaller businesses like ours and our customers who are able to operate and remain competitive in this high cost state because of the enterprise zone program.

We respect that you and the legislature have a daunting task of balancing the budget and moving California back into a state of fiscal responsibility. And while cuts will be necessary, the answer is NOT to eliminate the only business assistance program in the state that might help lead to growth and recovery through an increase in jobs. I'd like to ask you to do everything that you can to encourage business growth and create jobs – and I'll do the same, by continuing to offer good jobs in our community at a fair wage. The enterprise zone program helps me do that.

Sincerely,

Name & Title