



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

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County Administrator, **Patrick S. Blacklock**
Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

March 23, 2018

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair
Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2596 (Cooley)- California Statewide Economic Development Strategic Plan-SUPPORT

Dear Chair Quirk-Silva:

Yolo County supports AB 2596 authored by Assembly Member Ken Cooley. This bill would require the development of a statewide economic development plan that will help build a market-based, inclusive economy in California.

California is a global leader across industries and policies, but there are serious economic challenges facing our state. California is regularly ranked as the least business friendly state, has the 7th highest income inequality among states, and almost 20% of Californians live in poverty. Implementing a statewide strategic economic development plan will create an environment where all communities in California can engage in a cohesive conversation with the state about creating an inclusive, equitable economy with growth opportunities across regions.

Yolo County supports AB 2596 because this effort will increase California's competitiveness and help regions across the state. AB 2596 calls for a critical third-party peer review of the state's competitiveness and brings together a diverse advisory group of local, regional, and industry experts to work with GO-Biz in developing a statewide plan. A statewide strategy that sets strategic goals, examines and measures existing programs, sets industry recommendations and considers economic development at the regional level is critical to our shared success moving forward.

AB 2596 harnesses a proven approach to regional economic development. Other states have used similar models to increase their competitiveness, and it is time that California adopts a comprehensive strategy through a statewide economic development plan. For these reasons Yolo County supports AB 2596 and respectfully requests your support. Please contact Alexander Tengolics in the County Administrator's Office at (530) 666-8068 or alexander.tengolics@yolocounty.org with any questions about the County's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar E. Villegas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Oscar Villegas
Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Ken Cooley
 The Honorable Travis Allen
 The Honorable Marc Berman
 The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
 The Honorable Jim Patterson
 The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
 The Honorable Bill Dodd
 The Honorable Richard Pan
 The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
 The Honorable Kevin McCarty