



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

April 5, 2010

Assembly Member Norma Torres  
Chairperson, Housing and Community Development Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4164  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: Assembly Bill 2531 (Fuentes) – Support**

Dear Assembly Member Torres:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), an organization dedicated to promoting job growth, economic expansion, and preserving the overall global competitiveness of Los Angeles County, I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill 2531 ("AB 2531"). This important bill would amend the California Redevelopment Law to allow local governments, through their redevelopment agencies, to pursue a more aggressive and proactive economic development agenda by including in the definition of the term "redevelopment" those activities that support the provision of employment opportunities and expand the scope of activities included in that term.

First and foremost, California needs to create jobs. With the state's unemployment rate above 12.5 percent – its highest level on-record, now – more than ever – we must make economic development, sustainable growth and job creation our highest priorities.

Community redevelopment remains one of the best tools our cities have to catalyze economic development. AB 2531 focuses on a key purpose of economic development, which is to strengthen our communities and make them more livable by providing residents with more job opportunities. Specifically, the amplification and strengthening of redevelopment law proposed by AB 2531 will help align economic development and redevelopment goals, and thus provide local redevelopment agencies with more tools to create and retain good paying jobs, with an emphasis on "green" industrial and manufacturing jobs.

Here in Los Angeles County, the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) is currently limited to economic development activities associated with new construction, expansion or rehabilitation of existing buildings. The proposed change to the Community Redevelopment Law would clarify that redevelopment activities can also be used for job creation and to assist an industrial or manufacturing business "green" its operations. This commonsensical expansion of what constitutes redevelopment activities would provide the CRA/LA with new and significant functionalities to achieve its express mission "to create economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in Los Angeles."

Simply put, our state leaders must make it a legitimate policy priority and leverage all available resources – including our cities' local redevelopment agencies – to encourage job creation, especially in growing sectors such as clean technology. By better aligning economic development and redevelopment initiatives, we believe that AB 2531 is an important first-step to doing just this.

For all the above reasons, the LAEDC supports AB 2531. We look forward to working with the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, your office, other members of the State Legislature, the CRA/LA and other local redevelopment agencies to ensure that sensible and innovative legislative proposals, like expanding the scope of redevelopment (as proposed by AB 2531) to help facilitate economic growth and job creation, continue to be considered, adopted and implemented in a way where they can create jobs, strengthen the state's economy, and preserve our overall quality of life.

Sincerely,



William C. Allen  
President & CEO  
LAEDC

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
California Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary Dale Bonner  
Members of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee