

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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April 10, 2018

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Chair
Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy
California State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 359
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support of AB 2596 (Cooley) California Economic Development Strategic Plan

Dear Chair Quirk-Silva:

We are writing in support of AB 2596, authored by Assemblymember Ken Cooley. This bill requires 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.

We support 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's time that California adopts a comprehensive strategy through a statewide economic development plan. As a County who is invested in the future of our region and state, El Dorado County respectfully requests your support of AB 2596.

Sincerely,

Michael Ranalli, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Ken Cooley
Vice Chair Travis Allen
Assemblymember Marc Berman
Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes
Assemblymember Jim Patterson
Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
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