



California Labor Federation

AFL-CIO

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April 23, 2012

Mr. Stuart Drown
Executive Director, Little Hoover Commission
925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via electronic mail to: littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov

RE: PERB Reorganization – OPPOSE

Dear Mr. Drown:

The California Labor Federation opposes the proposal to move the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) under the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. As the Little Hoover Commission reviews the Reorganization Plan, we ask that the following concerns be taken into consideration.

While we understand the Administration's goals of increasing coordination and streamlining operations, we are concerned that the proposal could jeopardize PERB's independence. California public workers must be able to depend on PERB as an impartial arbiter of disputes, not as an arm of a potentially hostile future administration.

In addition, the proposed move could create new burdens for PERB by delaying hiring and slowing down administrative decision-making. For an entity struggling with reduced resources and a significant waiting time for decisions, and that is a risk we cannot take.

Finally, moving PERB under the Labor and Workforce Development Agency would create potential conflicts when departments within the Agency are involved in labor disputes. Such a scenario could also jeopardize the confidentiality of PERB filings, as we have seen at the local level in Los Angeles where the county has demanded access to information about charges filed to the local employment relations board.

We oppose the proposal to move the PERB under the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and ask that the Little Hoover Commission recommend a NO vote.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Vega
Legislative Advocate
CV: sm
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Cc: Jim Humes, Executive Secretary for Administration, Legal Affairs, and Policy, Office of the Governor