



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 14, 2015

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Executive Director

The Honorable Roger Hernández
Assemblymember, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5106
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1508

Dear Assemblymember Hernández:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 1508, the measure you have authored that would require the Governor to appoint an independent chief policy advisor for the underground economy.

In researching its March 2015 report, *Level the Playing Field: Put California's Underground Economy out of Business*, the Commission found that there was no center of accountability for California's underground economy. The Commission found that although numerous government organizations focus on tackling the underground economy, no one is directly in charge. Hardworking government employees do their best to combat the problem, but often without adequate resources or the data or equipment to effectively do their jobs. There are four major state task forces focused on the underground economy, but it is not clear, overall, what the outcomes have been.

To create accountability for the state's efforts to combat the underground economy, the Commission recommended that the Governor, in consultation with the other state leaders who have jurisdiction over the underground economy, designate an independent chief policy advisor for the underground economy and give that leader the authority to untangle any overlaps in responsibilities, bridge silos and move efficiently toward results. This policy advisor would review the state's task forces and partnerships to ensure they were organized efficiently and lead a strategic planning process to develop appropriate statewide performance outcomes. The policy advisor also would create opportunities for greater information sharing while simultaneously implementing safeguards to protect privacy and report on progress and barriers requiring administrative and legislative changes in a timely manner.

Assembly Bill 1508 would implement the Commission's recommendation and as a result, the Commission supports this measure.

As the bill moves through the legislative process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission