



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

September 1, 2016

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Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 215 (LENO)

Dear Governor Brown:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Senate Bill 215, the measure authored by Senator Leno.

In its 2015 report, *Conversations for Workable Government*, the Commission recommended that the state retain its array of ex parte communication policies that provide useful information to executive branch decision-makers. The Commission also recommended the state consider additional transparency and accountability measures for ex parte communications. With the recent amendments to Senate Bill 215, the Commission now supports this measure.

In its 2015 report, the Commission also made recommendations for fine-tuning the statutory language of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and Ralph M. Brown Act to provide state and local appointed and elected officials more ability to discuss general policy issues while continuing to prevent them from reaching agreement on votes or decisions. Although SB 215 does not address these additional recommendations, the Commission stands ready to assist you and the Legislature in the next session to implement these additional measures to improve government decision-making.

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 215 to improve California's government transparency, and encourages you to sign this important legislation. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission