

April 4, 2023

Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva  
Chair of the Assembly Committee on Arts,  
Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua  
Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and the  
Economy (JEDE) Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 359  
Sacramento, California 95814

*RE: Small Business Majority supports AB 1669; California Historically Significant Commercial District Act*

Dear Assemblymembers Quirk-Silva and Villapudua,

As a leading representative of small businesses in California, Small Business Majority writes to express support for AB 1669, legislation that would establish the California Historically Significant District Program, an important program that can revitalize and support historically and culturally significant commercial corridors and small businesses in the state.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations to deliver resources to entrepreneurs and advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth.

Small businesses in California have experienced growing challenges in starting, operating and growing their enterprises for a number of years, with the COVID-19 pandemic pushing them to their limits. As they continue to find ways to keep their businesses running, one successful approach that we continue to see, day in and out, is the quick and creative deployment of funding assistance in California.

AB 1669 would be yet another dynamic and efficient way to support small businesses in California, especially those located in historically and culturally significant commercial corridors. As you may know, maintaining historically significant buildings can create an added expense for business owners, while also limiting them in changing or adjusting their storefronts to attract clientele. And at a time when they're cash strapped, initiatives like the California Historically Significant District Program can help them revitalize through technical assistance funding, training and other activities that increase the capacity to operate, adapt and meet the unique needs of small businesses operating in historic commercial districts.

We urge you to consider this initiative as you continue to explore statewide strategies that can support small business owners in California.

Sincerely,



Bianca Blomquist  
California Policy Director, Small Business Majority