



May 11, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8220  
Sacramento, California 95814

*RE: Re: AB 1776 (Aguiar-Curry) – Small business owners in strong SUPPORT*

Dear Chairwoman Wicks,

On behalf of small business owners across California, we write to express our strong support for the COMPETE Act (AB 1776), introduced by Assembly Majority Leader Aguiar-Curry. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring a fair and competitive marketplace where small businesses can thrive.

California's 4.3 million small businesses make up 99.8% of all businesses in the state and employ nearly half of the private workforce. Yet too often, small businesses are forced to compete in markets where the rules are set by a handful of dominant companies.

California is the fourth largest economy in the world yet relies on antitrust laws that were created in 1907 that do not reflect the realities of today's economy or technology. At the same time, California is one of only a few states without a clear state-level prohibition on single firms acting anticompetitively. The COMPETE Act addresses a significant gap in California law by recognizing what small business owners experience every day: a single dominant company can use its power to block competition, limit access to customers and push out smaller competitors. The COMPETE Act ensures harmful practices can be addressed by making it easier for a small business owner to bring and win a case in state court. Importantly, the bill focuses on banning illegal monopolization and single-firm anticompetitive conduct.

The need for action is clear. Small business owners overwhelmingly agree that our current laws are not keeping pace with today's economy:<sup>1</sup>

- 82% say it's time to update our laws to better protect small businesses—not just consumers
- 80% say large companies have too much control over markets
- 80% report that large companies have an unfair advantage
- 56% say their industry is dominated by a few major players
- 83% say large companies take their ideas and scale them

These challenges are not theoretical. Across industries, small business owners are experiencing real consequences. Restaurants are being pushed down on delivery platforms unless they pay higher fees, retailers are struggling to reach customers when a single platform controls access, and local businesses are losing customers when dominant companies undercut prices or lock in exclusive deals

<sup>1</sup> "Scientific Opinion Poll: Small businesses seek a level playing field and chance to compete fairly." Small Business Majority. March 2022. <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/our-research/small-businesses-seek-level-playing-field-and-chance-compete-fairly>

AB 1776 would establish necessary guardrails by making it unlawful for dominant companies to block competitors, control access to customers or engage in unfair practices that harm small businesses. This will help restore balance to the marketplace and ensure that businesses succeed based on innovation, quality and service, not simply market dominance.

Small businesses are the backbone of California's economy, but they cannot compete on a level playing field without modern protections that reflect today's market realities.

The COMPETE Act will help ensure that small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs have a fair chance to grow, compete and succeed. We urge you to support AB 1776.

Sincerely,

**Organizations:**

Small Business Majority  
Alliance for a Better Community  
Alliance for Community Development  
Asian Resources, Inc.  
Asociacion de Emprendedor@s  
Buen Vecino  
Business For Good, San Diego  
California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity (CAMEO) Network  
California Capital Financial Development Corporation (FDC)  
California Coalition for Community Investment (CalCCI)  
California Food and Farming Network  
California Independent Booksellers Alliance (CALIBA)  
California Public Banking Alliance (CBPA)  
California Work & Family Coalition (CAWFC)  
CoBiz Richmond  
Community Arts Stabilization Trust  
Community Legal Services East Palo Alto  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Farm2People  
High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA)  
Inclusive Action for the City  
Indian Dispute Resolution Services  
Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) San Diego  
Los Angeles Economic Equity Accelerator & Fellowship (LEEAF)  
Microenterprise Collaborative of Inland Southern California  
National Small Business Advisory Council (NSBAC)  
Oakland Privacy  
Organizing To Win  
Pacific Coast Regional (PCR) Business Finance  
Pacific Community Ventures  
Public Counsel  
San Francisco Senior and Disability Action

SEIU Local, 1000  
Small Business Forward  
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)  
The COOK Alliance  
Uptima Entrepreneur Cooperative  
Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce  
Worksafe

**Small business owners:**

Sandra Adams, American English Institute, Riverside, CA  
Allison Allain, PCI Builders, Monrovia, CA  
Mar Y Sol Alvarado, Alro Window Coverings, Mountain View, CA  
Kat Ammann, Crafted, Fair Oaks, CA  
William Anderson, Brass Bear, Santa Barbara, CA  
Emily Autenrieth, A Seat at the Table Books, LLC, Elk Grove, CA  
Teresa Beardsley, Safety Compliance Services, Wrightwood, CA  
Magdalena Victoria Bianchi, Fostering Kids for Life, Hemet, CA  
Thomas Brzezinski, Synergy Real Estate Group, Walnut Creek, CA  
Angie Chua, Bobo Design Studio, Palm Springs, CA  
Cristian (Paloma) Corona, Little Sprouts Language Immersion Preschool, Los Angeles, CA  
Bettina Cross, Crystal Vibe, Sacramento, CA  
Karen Emanuel, Waxcult, Tarzana, CA  
John Evans, Camino Books, Encinitas, CA  
Christin Evans, Booksmith and Kepler's Books, San Francisco, CA  
Charlotta Gigliotti-carter, LLENA(AI)<sup>TM</sup> Health Solutions, Inc, San Mateo, CA  
Maria Gonzalez, The Cache, Visalia, CA  
Francisca Guzman, Tacos el Borrego Jc, Los Angeles, CA  
Kathryn Hedges, Splendid Colors, Santa Cruz, CA  
Corissa Hernandez, Craft Beer Cellar Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, CA  
JB Herrera, Synergi AI, Carmichael, CA  
Brad Johnson, East Bay Booksellers, LLC, Oakland, CA  
Lisa Kaczmarczyk, Lisa Kaczmarczyk PhD Consulting, LLC, San Diego, CA  
Ania Kaminska, Worksters, San Diego, CA  
Kim Karsh, Cal Pro Sports, Harbor City, CA  
Julia Kestner, Julia Kestner Designs, San Diego, CA  
Rachel Klein, Fire Starter Studios / Solaris Media Group, Los Angeles, CA  
Tomasia Adriana Lara Valencia, Lara Valencia, Tomasia Family Childcare, El Centro, CA  
Ramon Lopez, Delfin Trucking Moving, North Hollywood, CA  
Karla Lopez-Martinez, Gila Rut Salon, Chula Vista, CA  
Linda Mac Dougall, Mac Dougall Consulting for Disabilities/Senior Massage Group, Port Hueneme, CA  
Lorna Manrique, Exportalia Customs Brokers, LLC, San Diego, CA  
Maria Marquez, Maria's Farm Fresh Eggs, Atwater, CA  
Jessica Martin, Rooted Wild Flower Bar, Moreno Valley, CA  
Reyna Medrano, Reynas Business Center and Insurance Services, Sanger, CA

Mary Sue Milliken, Border Grill Restaurants, Los Angeles, CA  
Keshia Mills, Winter Grace Sugar-Free Chocolates, Los Angeles, CA  
Pete Mulvihill, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA  
Leslie Murdock, Designing Digitally Inc, Mountain View, CA  
Susan O'Brien, The Kitchen Table, Sacramento, CA  
Tony M & Patricia A Ojeda, Ojeda Industries, Brawley, CA  
Clara Olachea, Olachea Industries, LLC, Moreno Valley, CA  
Christie Olson Day, Gallery Bookshop, Mendocino, CA  
Jessica Palacios, Once Upon A Time Bookstore, Montrose, CA  
Samantha Parlato, Salt Water Designs, Sacramento, CA  
Raul Pena, La Mejor Spanish Publications LLC, Merced, CA  
Cp Phan, Hueman Studio, Rancho Cucamonga, CA  
Stacy Rebich Hespanha, Flourish Local, Santa Barbara, CA  
Yasmeen Robinson, Omnific Global Marketing, Commerce, CA  
Romeo Rodriguez, AR Diesel Repair, El Centro, CA  
Pj Rosch, The Little Red Dog, Inc., Lake Forest, CA  
Jorge Salgado, 6S Machining Enterprises LLC, San Marcos, CA  
Juan Sanchez, Soap Works, Concord, CA  
Dene Sanders, Rooted in Palm Springs, Palm Springs, CA  
Princess Sims, The Final Sauce, Richmond, CA  
Julia Sinquimani, Solar Connection Inc, Los Angeles, CA  
Molly Standley, Molly Moon Crafts, Palm Desert, CA  
Kevin Stanley, Kevin Stanley Real Estate, Palm Springs, CA  
Romney Steele, The Cook And Her Farmer, Oakland, CA  
Tally Sue Szeto, Shweet Shtuf, San Francisco, CA  
Jill Tindle, Golden Circle, Sacramento, CA  
Kim Truong, Pinkie's Childcare, West Sacramento, CA  
George Turner, Phatt Chance Community Services Inc, San Francisco, CA  
Numbiya Aziz, Gentlemen Health and Wellness, San Jose, CA  
Lizeth Vaca, ELLVEE LLC, Los Angeles, CA  
Kirk Vartan, A Slice of New York, Santa Clara, CA  
Nalina Vijayan, St Mother Teresa Child Care Services, Covina, CA  
Virginia Villaseñor, Delicious Freedom USA, Pomona, CA  
Juliette Vos, Desert Art Woman, Cathedral City, CA  
Chelsea Ward, Sketchy Notions, Los Angeles, CA  
Veronica Wells, T and V Rooming for the Mentally and Disable LLC, Sacramento, CA  
Kavisa Wood, Nourishing Justly, Sacramento, CA  
Megan Wyatt, Wit & Whimsy Toys, Granite Bay, CA  
Nicole Wang, SheSō, San Francisco, CA  
Iva Chen, Lady Luck Gourmet LLC, Burlingame, CA  
Di Altali, Naya Investment, Santa Clara, CA