



April 13, 2022

Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
Chair, Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2226 (Cervantes) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Cervantes:

Small Business Majority writes in support of AB 2226, which would expand the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development's (GO-Biz) current activities related to geographically-based economic development areas to also include cultural districts. The legislation would also require GO-Biz to engage with the California Historic Preservation Commission on a range of economic development activities.

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. Our work is bolstered by extensive research and deep connections with the small business community that enable us to educate stakeholders about key issues impacting America's entrepreneurs, with a special focus on the smallest businesses and those facing systemic inequities.

Entrepreneurship is essential to a thriving and equitable economy in California. Yet, too many small business owners— particularly women, people of color, immigrants and other under-represented populations—face significant hurdles accessing resources, as well as capital from banks and other traditional sources. This challenge has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why it's important for the state to implement commonsense policies that will support California entrepreneurs as they sustain and grow their businesses.

AB 2226 would strengthen the linkages between GO-Biz and other state agencies that are also responsible for implementing geographically-based economic development programs, including the Main Street Program and the state-designated cultural districts. This would ensure stronger coordination and support for programs that support our state's underserved small businesses.

I encourage you to support this AB 2226 to ensure greater collaboration between economic development efforts and entrepreneurship, recognizing the role that small business owners play in local economies and regional economic development initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bianca Blomquist".

Bianca Blomquist
California Policy Director
Small Business Majority