





SSOCIATION OF CALIFOR





























August 23, 2013

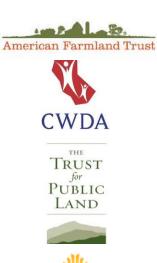
To: Governor Jerry Brown
Members, California State Senate
Members, California State Assembly

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 594 (Hill): A Last Minute Gut-and-Amend that Would Shut Police Chiefs, County Sheriffs, School Boards, Cities, Counties, Community Colleges and Other Nonprofits Out of the State and Local Ballot Initiative Process

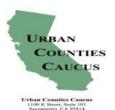
Our organizations represent California's police chiefs, county sheriffs, school boards, school districts, community colleges, cities, counties, special districts, district attorneys, the business community and others. We are writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 594 (Hill), despite the August 21, 2013 amendments. The recent amendments do not change the fundamental problems with the bill.

- Nonprofit organizations like ours will be shut out of the state and local ballot initiative process – silencing the voices of trusted organizations on matters of critical importance to our constituents and the residents of California.
- SB 594 contains broad language that would stop our organizations from
  participating in state and local ballot campaigns that have a direct impact on our m
  embers and the services they provide to the public. This effectively eliminates our
  political voice on ballot measures that involve many of California's most important
  issues.
- This last minute gut-and-amend is promoted by a few special interests wishing to increase their influence by silencing important and engaged organizations that may not always agree with their political positions. SB 594 was gutted and amended on August 7. Not only does this disrespect the legislative process and preclude legislators and the public from fully digesting the measure and its far-reaching implications, but it also directly contradicts the proponents' main argument that the bill is intended to increase transparency in the political process.
- SB 594 is a solution in search of a problem. Our organizations never use public funds for political purposes. California already has strong laws on the books that prohibit the use of public funds in political campaigns. Violations of the Political Reform Act are subject to steep fines and criminal prosecution. Our organizations take great care to ensure we are not expending public resources on campaigns.
- Lastly, SB 594 creates vast new responsibilities for the Attorney General to
  conduct biennial audits of thousands of nonprofit organizations that receive more
  than 20 percent of their annual revenues from one or more local agencies. This
  would create a new and costly bureaucracy at the Attorney General's office, as well
  as time-consuming and costly audits for nonprofit organizations.

We hope you will join us in opposing this egregious, last-minute gut-and-amend that would have grave consequences for our members, the citizens we serve, and the political process in California.



















Sincerely,

Wes Smith

Frank J. Mecca

Chief Kim J. Raney
President
California Police Chiefs Association

Vernon M. Billy Executive Director California School Boards Association

Carol Leveroni Executive Director California Peace Officers' Association

Executive Director
Association of California School Administrators

Cory Salzillo
Director of Legislation
California District Attorneys Association

Peter Birdsall
Executive Director
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Jeffrey A. Vaca Deputy Executive Director of Governmental Relations California Association of School Business Officials

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Matthew Cate Executive Director California State Association of Counties

Rosario Garza Executive Director California Library Association

Gary Toebben President & CEO Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Jim Wunderman President & Chief Executive Officer Bay Area Council Gregory J. Ahern
President
California State Sheriffs' Association

Mack Jenkins
President
Chief Probation Officers of California

Catherine Smith
Executive Director
Fire Districts Association of California

Ron Alves
President
California Emergency Services Association

Scott Lay
President/CEO
Community College League of California

Patricia Ryan
Executive Director
California Mental Health Directors
Association

Paul Smith Senior Legislative Advocate Rural County Representatives of California

Darla Guenzler, Ph.D. Executive Director California Council of Land Trusts

Edward Thompson Jr.
California Director
American Farmland Trust

Chris McKenzie Executive Director League of California Cities

Amber Wiley

Senior Legislative Advocate Association of California Healthcare Districts

Jim Lazarus Senior Vice President of Public Policy San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Randy Gordon
President & CEO
Long Beach Chamber of Commerce

(more)

























Sincerely,

Steve Van Dorn President & CEO Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce

Mario Guerra Mayor of Downey and President Elect Independent Cities Association

Roseanne Foust President & CEO San Mateo County Economic Development Association

Carol Griese
Executive Director
California Association of Public Cemeteries

Jamison Watts
Executive Director
Marin Agricultural Land Trust

Nita Vail Chief Executive Officer California Rangeland Trust

Jeff Darlington Executive Director Placer Land Trust

Roberta Larson Executive Director California Association of Sanitation Districts

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Oscar Garcia President & CEO Mountain View Chamber of Commerce Neil McCormick Executive Director California Special Districts Association

Jolena Voorhis Executive Director Urban Counties Caucus

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California Contract Cities Association

Robert Doyle General Manager East Bay Regional Park District

Jill Bays Director Transition Habitat Conservancy

Walter T. Moore President Peninsula Open Space Trust

Thomas Maloney Executive Director Tejon Ranch Conservancy

Janet Selby Secretary California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA)

Susan Bray
Executive Director
Association of California Community
College Administrators