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June 13, 2017

Honorable Mike McGuire
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB1250 (Jones-Sawyer). Counties and Cities: Contracts for Personal Services – Notice of OPPOSITION

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher

The County of Modoc must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill (AB) 1250, which effectively eliminates almost all contracting services for cities and counties.

Although our concerns range from fundamental local control discretion to increased and unnecessary reporting requirements, for purposes of the Assembly Appropriations committee our county will be focused on fiscal objections.

As amended, AB 1250 still requires that the agency provide an orientation to contracted employees. Last year, AB 2835 (Cooper) which mandated that public employers must provide an orientation to their own employees was tagged at \$350 million in ongoing costs by the California department of Finance. This year there have been various proposals that would apply prescriptive employer mandates for employee orientations—a guaranteed cost-driver for local governments. Having a local agency provide an additional orientation to non-county employees creates significant cost and logistical concerns.

Further, AB 1250 would require a county to create a new, fully searchable database that must be posted on the city website which includes:

- The names, job titles, salary of each contracted employee (and subcontractors).
- The services of the contract, the name of the agency department or division of the city who manages the contract.
- The amount paid to the contract including the total projected cost of the contract for all fiscal years and the funding source.

- The total number of “full time equivalent” employees being contracted out.

There is no direction in the measure on who must update this information or how often this information must be updated; this in itself will create significant costs in staff time and increased workload.

Apart from the inherent cost drivers with this provision, we have privacy concerns about posting full names, job titles and salaries of non-county employees. This will set the scenario whereby a contracted or subcontracted (non-county) employee will have a strong avenue for a right to privacy lawsuit. The costs associated with this type of litigation will be significant.

Additionally, this measure would require a county, before entering a contract or renewing a contract, to perform a full cost-benefit analysis which include the potential impacts of outsourcing, including the impact on local businesses if consumer spending power is reduced (among other factors). AB 1250 mandates a county conduct a full environmental impact analysis caused by contracting for the services. Further, the measure forces a county to conduct an annual audit of each contract and prohibits a county from renewing or granting a new contract before the report is released and considered by the council.

Although language was taken to pass the cost to the potential contractor and/or the awarded contractor local agencies believe that companies will simply build in these additional costs into their contracts which yields the same result as if the County simply pays for the cost-benefit analysis. Moreover, it is unclear how a local agency could even assess the cost of the cost-benefit analysis to a prospective contractor. This would only create further confusions and create a chilling effect on prospective contractors from bidding for a service.

The cost drivers noted above only compound existing constitutional limitations on cities to raise additional revenue. Thus, counties are in no position to have their flexibility further curtailed.

The workload, privacy concerns, costs and litigation created by this measure places an overwhelming and significant burden on nearly every county department and would create a de facto ban on virtually all contracting services.

For these reasons COUNTY OF MODOC Opposes Assembly Bill 1250.

Sincerely,



Geri Byrne
Chair, Modoc County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security
Michael Bolden, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee Public Employees, Retirement,
and Social Security
Joshua White, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Camille Wagner, Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.