August 21, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the above-listed organizations, we are writing to respectfully request your opposition to AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). We believe private/public partnerships are critical to providing necessary local services that will save taxpayer resources.

The state’s economic well-being and continued success depends upon counties being allowed to use all the tools in the toolkit to make prudent financial decisions on how best to deliver services. Unfortunately, AB 1250 goes against that logic and would place a de facto ban on counties’ abilities to contract with businesses, nonprofits, and economic development organizations to provide local services that a county does not have the expertise or internal capacity to provide directly.

In doing so, AB 1250 jeopardizes the delivery of vital services that many Californians depend on, including health and social services, public safety and other core functions of counties. AB 1250 could also impede infrastructure project delivery and the basic administrative roles of counties.

AB 1250 would impose significant new burdens on nonprofits and private sector contractors for the sole purpose of discouraging public/private partnerships. AB 1250 contains significant privacy, financial and legal risks when a business considers contracting with a county.
For example, AB 1250 requires contractors to disclose personal information, including the names and hourly rates of their employees and subjects that information to the California Public Records Act. This raises significant privacy and safety concerns for businesses and the counties alike.

AB 1250 also requires contractors to pay for audits and prohibits the contractor from factoring in the cost of the audit into the contract costs with the county.

The onerous bureaucratic burdens placed on contractors in AB 1250 create a huge disincentive to bid on any county contracts. Without contractors providing some of these necessary services, counties will be forced to divert resources away from the delivery of vital local services.

Ultimately, the requirements in AB 1250 only serve to drive up contractor costs and reduce opportunities for counties to enter into contracts for essential services. Restricting counties’ abilities to contract for the expertise and most efficient delivery of services is unreasonable and unnecessary. In order to best serve all Californians, counties need the flexibility to contract with private sector entities to provide services in the most cost-effective manner.

There is no legitimate policy problem that AB 1250 seeks to address. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you oppose AB 1250.

Sincerely,

American Staffing Association
Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., Central Valley Chapter
Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., San Diego Chapter
Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., Southern California Chapter
CalAsian Chamber of Commerce
California Ambulance Association
California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
California Association for Local Economic Development
California Building Industry Association
California Building Officials
California Business Properties Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
California Retailers Association
California Staffing Professionals
California Trucking Association
California Workforce Association
Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties
Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent Business
Orange County Business Council
San Benito County Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation
Solid Waste Association of North America
The Silicon Valley Organization
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

Cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
    The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly