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Assembly California Legislature



ANNA M. CABALLERO
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

5/3/2010

COPY

Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore, CA State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President pro Tempore Steinberg:

I am the legislator representing the cities and communities of the Salinas Valley in Monterey County. I am writing to inform you that the Salinas Valley Enterprise Zone is a critical component of the economic development strategy of the jurisdictions I represent.

Given the current economic crisis and high unemployment rates in California at this time, it is critical that the State invest in programs to encourage economic growth. Unemployment rates for the communities of the Salinas Valley were all higher than 20% this winter, and exceeded 40% in some locations. The Enterprise Zone serves as the single most important incentive program for businesses across our great State of California. By providing tax credits for businesses that hire certain residents living in distressed areas, the Enterprise Zone encourages businesses to invest in struggling communities and spurs economic growth and job creation.

The Salinas Valley Enterprise Zone is a relatively new Enterprise Zone, having received its designation on January 30, 2009. As of April 1, 2010, the Enterprise Zone has issued a total of 560 vouchers for Hiring Credits to 118 local businesses. The addition of the Enterprise Zone also serves as a powerful attraction for new businesses and has greatly increased interest in the Salinas Valley; in fact several businesses, including electric vehicle manufacturer Green Vehicles Inc., have already relocated to the Salinas Valley thanks in no small part to the Enterprise Zone. These companies and others that are seriously considering locating in the Salinas Valley have indicated the Enterprise Zone program has played an important role in determining where they would locate their business.

In addition to these successes, the Salinas Valley Enterprise Zone has worked with local organizations and programs, including the Monterey County OneStop Career Center and City of Salinas Operation Censefire, an anti-gang effort, in an effort to encourage businesses to hire the most at-risk individuals. The Salinas Valley Enterprise Zone is looking forward to continuing its efforts to utilize the benefits of the Enterprise Zone to benefit the community. It is our continued support of the Enterprise Zone remain a high priority.

Thank you for your consideration to my request.

Sincerely,

ANNA M. CABALLERO
28th Assembly District

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger