

Legislators Vote with Chamber 3 out of 6

As the legislative session draws to a close, the Chamber of Commerce Mountain View would like to offer its members a yearend summary of its legislative advocacy efforts. At the state level, Senator Elaine Alquist and Assemblywoman Sally Lieber voted with Chamber positions on three important issues. During 2005, the Chamber took positions on a total of seven pieces of state legislation. With one exception of pending legislation, each of these bills was considered and voted on by Mountain View's representatives.

Please refer to the following list for a comprehensive overview of this year's key public policy issues for the local business community.

Subject and Bill – Chamber Position:

Status:

Minimum Wage Increase. AB 48 (Lieber) serves as a major disincentive for doing business in California by raising the state minimum wage to the highest level in the nation. This legislation proposes to increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 in 2006 and \$7.75 in 2007 with subsequent index increases each year.

Vetoed

Chamber Position: Oppose
Alquist/Lieber Votes: In favor

Sex Offenders. AB 438 (Parra) seeks to clarify and update housing regulations as they relate to the sex offender registry.

Pending (in committee)

Chamber Position: Support
Alquist/Lieber Votes: n/a

Property Tax Revenue: Special Districts. AB 1590 (Lieber) is sponsored by the Silicon Valley Water District to remedy an inequitable situation that resulted in dual-purpose agencies (enterprise and non-enterprise) having their activities assessed at a higher rate than if they operated as separate entities.'

Pending (in committee)

Chamber Position: Support
Alquist/Lieber Votes: In favor

Unsolicited Fax Advertising. SB 833 (Bowen) increases costs by placing onerous administrative and economic burdens on businesses by effectually requiring written consent from their own clients before sending certain fax communications.

Chaptered by
Sec. of State

Chamber Position: Oppose
Alquist/Lieber Votes: Support

Secrecy Agreements: Public Dangers. AB 1700 (Pavley) Inactive
regulates the use of secrecy agreements and court orders
regarding evidence discovered in litigation tending to show
the existence of a public danger.

Chamber Position: Oppose
Lieber Vote: In favor during committee vote

Employment: Wages. AB 1093 (Matthews) makes changes Chaptered by
to current payroll practices. Specifically, it provides a needed Sec. of State
clarification to direct deposit rules by permitting an employee's
final paycheck to be provided via direct deposit.

Chamber Position: Support
Alquist/Lieber Votes: In favor

Sales and Use Tax. SB 801 (Simitian) gives small businesses Pending (in committee)
with one retail location that generate between \$1400 and
\$4000 in sales tax per month the option to pre-pay their annual
sales tax through quarterly estimates

Chamber Position: Support with amendment to include sunset clause
Alquist: In favor
Lieber: n/a (Legislation pending in Assembly committee)

Representing business to government is a key function of the Chamber of Commerce Mountain View. Throughout the year, the Business Issues and Public Policy Committee actively reviews and analyzes legislation that could affect Chamber members. For more information about BIPP, contact Preeti at ppiplani@chambermv.org