Date, 2011

Honorable NAME

DISTRICT Address

District City, State

Fax:

**RE: $5 MILLION GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR JOB CREATION**

Dear Assembly Member/Senator NAME:

As we talked about at our visit to Sacramento on June 23, 2011, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration has established a $124.7 million competitive grants fund to support projects that demonstrate innovative strategies or replicate effective evidence-based strategies that align and strengthen the employment outcomes for program beneficiaries – the Workforce Innovation Fund.

**California Association to Micro Enterprise Organization (CAMEO) has engaged the state to apply for** a $5 million grant from this new Workforce Innovation Fund to support self-employment and entrepreneurship for the unemployed. CAMEO has:

* Sent a letter to Governor Brown, which was forwarded to Marty Morgenstern (California Labor & Workforce Development Agency); and
* Sent a Letter of Intent to Doug Hoffner (State Workforce Innovation Board).

**The Notice of Funds Available hasn’t been released, so the exact proposal would be worked on between CAMEO and the State WIB. The gist of the proposal is that** CAMEO will facilitate relationships between qualified Micro Enterprise Development organizations in its membership base and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) that have committed to supporting self-employment in their regions.

I write to ask you to urge California’s California Labor & Workforce Development Agency and the State Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to work with CAMEO on developing this grant proposal to help the unemployed become self-employed.

I’ve attached the referenced letters and information on the WIB partnership for background. I’ve also included a sample letter to Secretary Morgenstern, which you would need to type in your name and sign. I will follow up with your office regarding questions and your support in a week.

Sincere thanks for your consideration,

Your Name

Title

Attachments