

California State Senate

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SENATOR
ANNA M. CABALLERO
TWELFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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NATURAL RESOURCES
AND WATER

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 4
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Request for \$5 million to Support Small Business Development

Dear Chairs Mitchell and Durazo:

I respectfully write to request your consideration for \$5 million from the General Fund to support small business technical and financial assistance programs in the state, with \$3.5 million going to the Office of the Small Business Advocate and \$1.5 million going to the Small Business Expansion Fund.

The funding would expand and enhance the capacity and services provided by small business technical and financial assistance providers throughout the state. Priority for funding will be for services to underserved areas of the state, including rural communities, low-wealth communities, disaster-impacted areas and underserved business populations, including women, minorities and veterans.

Up to \$3.5 million of these funds would be matched by federal dollars and all of the funds will be used to strengthen the state's network of small business technical and financial assistance providers, including services that help businesses access foreign markets. These services are essential to providing information and assistance to small business owners and operators to help them succeed in the marketplace, and would make a smart investment for business development in California.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 651-4012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna M. Caballero".

ANNA M. CABALLERO
Senator, 12th District