



STANISLAUS
BUSINESS
ALLIANCE

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April 8, 2015

The Honorable Adam Gray
Assemblymember, 21st Assembly District
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

Dear Assemblymember Gray:

The Stanislaus Business Alliance is a public private partnership that serves the economic development needs of Stanislaus County. As you know, the agricultural industry is the lifeblood of this county, representing roughly 60 percent of the total countywide gross domestic product. The ag industry employs tens of thousands of people in living wage jobs. The industry is dependent on the vital natural resource of water.

The Alliance Board and Staff applaud you for your leadership in facilitating a reasonable legislative approach to our water needs. Your sponsorship of Assembly Bill 1242 is a great example of your leadership and sensible approach. The Alliance stands ready, willing and able to testify on behalf of this bill.

The economy is recovering. There is plenty of evidence of that. We have surveyed nearly 200 base employers in Stanislaus County this past year and have learned that 75 percent of these companies plan to expand and add new jobs. With an unemployment rate still hovering in double digits, the recovery is welcome news, but it is still tenuous and vulnerable to forces outside of our control such as availability of water.

Please let us know what we can do to support you in getting this bill passed. We look forward to working with you and your staff. The Alliance recently formed a Government Affairs Council, made up of individuals from our business community who are involved in legislative issues. The Council unanimously agreed to support AB 1242.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this matter and other issues important to our business community.

Sincerely,

David White
Chief Executive Officer