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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA****BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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February 16, 2021

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee
State Capitol, Room 2053
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 74 (Borgeas) Keep California Working Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Roth:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for Senate Bill 74, which would invest \$2.6 billion in grants to help small businesses and nonprofits that have sustained financial losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many small businesses are struggling to survive and the demand for services provided by nonprofits has increased while their sources of funding have decreased. As of November, small business revenue was down 33% and in light of the recent increases in COVID-19 cases and new stay at home orders, revenue will likely continue to decrease.

Senate Bill 74 creates a grant program for small businesses and non-profits that have sustained financial losses due to the impacts of COVID-19 and would invest \$2.6 billion in grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$60,000 to help small businesses and non-profits that have sustained financial losses. This funding will enhance opportunities to increase economic vitality and diversify the County's revenue base.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform that includes the Economic Enhancement/Revenue Diversification Plan, that specifically states that economic enhancement offers local government, the private sector, the nonprofit sectors and residents, the opportunity to work together to improve local economy and that the County will advocate for enhanced funding and streamlined processes that will encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business determined to be of priority to California counties in general, the Central Coast Region and Santa Barbara

County, specifically. The Pandemic Funding Relief for Local Governments Plank also states that counties need fiscal assistance to stabilize local government operations to offset the devastating impacts the crisis is having on our communities.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 74 (Borgeas). If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3407 or NAnderson@countyofsb.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Andreas Borgeas, Author
Honorable Members, Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee
Dana Shaker, Consultant, Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee
Kayla Williams, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Justin Garrett, California State Association of Counties