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*Executive Director*

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Laurie Davies  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3141  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 259 as amended - Restaurant Tax Credit - Support**

Dear Assemblywoman Davies,

On behalf of the South Orange County Economic Coalition (Coalition), I am writing to support your Bill No. AB 259 as amended. The restaurant industry has been one of the hardest hit industries due to COVID-19 with an estimated report of approximately 60% of restaurants in the state permanently closing due to government-mandated closures.

We understand the governor gave authority to the Alcohol Beverage Control Department to waive fees for 2021 and 2022 allowing various credits under the Corporation Tax Law with one of the credits being 50% of the annual fee paid on alcohol licensing fees. SB 259 as amended would allow a one-year retroactive tax credit for personal income taxes and corporation taxes for 2020 providing much needed relief.

As south Orange County's leading voice of business, the South Orange County Economic Coalition is the driving force of advocating for a strong local economy. We focus on four key areas: Advocacy, Education, Representation and Progress for South Orange County issues, initiatives and projects. We support and encourage a streamlined government process. Representing hundreds of employees, we are an alliance of businesses, community thought-leaders and stakeholders committed to enhancing the region's economic vitality and protecting its exceptional quality of life.

As we slowly begin to return to work it is imperative that we do whatever is possible to assist these small businesses and in this case it's our restaurants. For these reasons, the South Orange County Economic Coalition supports AB 259 and commends you on your forward-thinking legislation Assemblywoman Davies. Thank you

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Thomas  
Executive Director