

RE: AB 915 – Economic Equity First Act of 2021 – SUPPORT

Dear [Senator/Assemblymember]:

The [insert org] has reviewed AB 915 and is fully in support this bill proposal.

California contributes 1/7th of the United States' GDP, and is home to **3.9 million small businesses, or 99.8%** of all California businesses of which **1.6 million are minority-owned**. Small businesses not only contribute significantly to the tax base of the State but also accounted for **7 million employees, or 48.8%** of all employment in the State. It is therefore necessary, as a matter of policy, for the State of California to ensure that a fair share of procurement spending be directed and dedicated to small and minority-owned small businesses.

AB 915 establishes the *Economic Equity First Act*, by doing three primary things:

- 1) Codifying the goal of 25% of State procurement to be directed toward small businesses.
- 2) Adopting the Federal recognition of “Disadvantaged Business Enterprise” (DBE) when it comes to policy language and procurement consideration.
- 3) Establish accountability within the Administration and throughout the bureaucracy to enforce the intent of meeting that goal while directing all State agencies to develop and enact and education and outreach plan which will inform their communication strategy to minority and hard-to-reach businesses.

Much has been said, this past year, about the importance of “equity” when it comes to small and minority-owned businesses. There is no greater success to a business owner, or any kind, to secure more contracts. Considering the vast purchasing power and influence of the State of California, enacting this *Act* will be a critical next step to raising the tide for all small businesses in the State.

That is why we stand with Members Chiu and Holden, and the CalAsian, California Hispanic, and California African American Chambers of Commerce in urging your support of AB 915, to ensure the nearly 4 million small business owners have an equitable chance of being considered for State contracts.

You may contact [insert name] at [contact info] should you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support.