Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 7, 2017

Re: SUPPORT for AB 132: 2028 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer;

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I write in support of your bill, AB 132, which provides that the State will help backstop cost overruns if the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games go over budget. This is similar to legislation passed in Sacramento the last two times California cities bid for the Games (AB 300, 2007 and SB 1987, 2002), as well as last year’s SB 1465, which supported the LA2024 bid.

The LA 2028 bid is designed to be the most fiscally responsible and sustainable plan in decades. Los Angeles already has 97 percent of the venues in place or planned for the near future by private investors, and the bid has settled on updated UCLA facilities to serve as the athlete’s Olympic Village. Additionally, Los Angeles is investing $300 billion in transportation infrastructure, with an additional $14 billion in Los Angeles International Airport, including the construction of an automated people mover that will at long last connect LAX to our Metro system. These investments will occur with or without the Games and are not dependent upon funding from the Games.

As you are aware, Olympics cost overruns historically occur for three reasons: 1) Infrastructure improvements, 2) Venue cost over runs and 3) Village cost over runs. The Games do not lose money on an operating basis. Los Angeles is a prime candidate to avoid those cost pitfalls and can instead focus on the athlete, tourist and Los Angeles resident experience.

We are confident in our ability to stay at budget. In fact, the only two times in history the Games made money were both when Los Angeles served as host. The 1984 Games resulted in a surplus of over $200 million, the legacy of which is still felt today by the millions of children who were beneficiaries of the LA84 Foundation.

The 2028 Los Angeles Games will showcase both LA and California. The event will be good for tourism, good for tax revenues and business, and good for state pride and spirit. We think the passage of AB 132 is low risk for Sacramento and yet very important to demonstrating broad state support for the LA 2028 Games.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben  
President & CEO