

June 11, 2009

Senator Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
Minority Floor Leader, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblywoman Karen Bass
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
Minority Floor Leader, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senators Steinberg and Hollingsworth and Assemblymembers Bass and Blakeslee:

There must be no more budget cuts until corporate tax cuts are shut down. The most recent corporate tax breaks give away \$2.5 billion a year, every year, permanently, to a handful of the world's largest corporations.

These times are challenging. We understand that you face tough choices. But you do have choices. The \$2.5 billion in unnecessary corporate tax giveaways could be used instead to help keep teachers in the classroom, public safety personnel on duty, infrastructure projects moving, and our treasured state parks open. It would mean fewer of our most vulnerable citizens – children, seniors and the disabled – go without the services they desperately need.

These egregious giveaways have no value to the state or the majority of its businesses. Tax cuts like the elective single sales factor, tax credit sharing, and net operating loss carrybacks not only weaken our state in the current crisis, they will create a bigger budget gap in future years. And these tax giveaways do nothing to help create jobs or soften the economic blow so many families are facing.

Fairness dictates that everyone shares in the pain. And that includes some of the world's wealthiest corporations. Before considering additional cuts to programs Californians care so deeply about, we ask that you shut down these corporate tax giveaways.

Sincerely,

California Labor Federation
ACORN
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)
Association of California State Supervisors
California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)
California Budget Project (CBP)
California Church IMPACT
California Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union
California Conference of Machinists
California Faculty Association (CFA)

California Federation of Interpreters
California Federation of Teachers (CFT)
California League of Conservation Voters
California Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers
California Nurses Association (CNA)
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Partnership
California Primary Care Association
California Professional Firefighters (CPF)
California Reinvestment Coalition
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)
California School Employees Association
California State Employees Association
California Tax Reform Association
California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
California WIC Association
California/Nevada Community Action Partnership
CALPIRG
Center for Environmental Health
Child Care Law Center
Children's Defense Fund-California
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
Communication Workers of America, District 9
Congress of California Seniors
Consumer Attorneys of California
Consumer Federation of California
Consumer Watchdog
Consumers for Automobile Reliability and Safety
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Glendale City Employees Association
Guam Communications Network
Having Our Say Coalition
Health Access California
International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Northern California District Council
International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Southern California District Council
JERICHO, a Voice for Justice
Latino Health Alliance
Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California
Madera Coalition for Community Justice
National Lawyers Guild Labor & Employment Committee
National Lawyers Guild, Los Angeles Chapter
Older Women's League of California
Organization of SMUD Employees
Parent Voices
Professional and Technical Engineers, IFPTE Local 21, AFL-CIO
Public Advocates Inc.
Rural Community Assistance Corp

San Bernardino Public Employees Association
San Luis Obispo County Employees Association
Santa Rosa City Employees Association
Service Employees International Union, Local 1000
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
State Building and Construction Trades Council (SBCTC)
Time for Change Foundation
UAW Local 2865
UAW Local 4123
UNITE-HERE
United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council (UFCW)
United Transportation Union (UTU)
UPTE-CWA, Local 9119
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Women's Foundation of California

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California State Legislature