



**SAN
FRANCISCO
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

March 3, 2016

The Honorable Jim Beall, Chairman
Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing
State Capitol, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT: SB 1128 (Glazer), Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program

Dear Senator Beall,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,500 local businesses with over 200,000 employees living throughout the Bay Area, supports SB 1128 (Glazer) that will eliminate the 2017 sunset date on the successful Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program.

In 2012 SB 1339 authorized the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to jointly adopt a regional commuter benefits ordinance. Currently almost half a million Bay Area workers are being offered commuter benefits. By requiring employers with 50 or more Bay Area workers to provide incentives to commute via an alternative to driving alone, the program significantly reduces traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution while saving workers and their employers money in income and payroll taxes, thus putting local dollars back into local communities.

SB 1128 will help preserve these critically important environmental, mobility and economic benefits for Bay Area residents and employers. Without it, the program will sunset in early 2017.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce supports SB 1128 and urges you and the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing to support it when it comes before the Committee for a hearing this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Lazarus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Steven M. Glazer