



SAN  
FRANCISCO  
**CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

May 31, 2017

The Honorable Phil Ting  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0019

RE: Support: AB 471 (Ting) Developing Neighborhood Restaurants

Dear Assemblymember Ting:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,500 local businesses with over 200,000 employees, supports your bill AB 471 which encourages investment in San Francisco's most challenged neighborhood-serving commercial corridors that typically struggle to survive.

Restaurants can be a catalyst for economic development in neighborhoods, drawing visitors, foot traffic and shoppers. They provide jobs, including for those with little or no training and experience, that can lead to higher paying careers. However, in San Francisco restaurants often struggle to survive, especially in neighborhoods that are off the beaten track. Offering liquor encourages diners to stay in a restaurant longer and adds needed revenue to the bottom line, but liquor licenses are cost prohibitive to smaller restaurants, particularly those located in less trafficked locations.

Last year, the Legislature approved the creation of five liquor licenses available exclusively for new or existing restaurants located in a set of target San Francisco neighborhoods. These neighborhood-restricted liquor licenses will be available directly from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a modest application fee, making them within the reach of neighborhood small business owners and entrepreneurs.

AB 471 would make twenty-five additional neighborhood-restricted liquor licenses available over a period of five years. In doing so, the bill would expand access to an important new business retention and attraction tool that will help strengthen and revitalize neighborhood commercial districts around San Francisco. The San Francisco Chamber supports AB 471 and thanks you for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus  
Senior Vice President of Public Policy