



April 16, 2025

TO: Members, Assembly Economic Development, Growth and Household Impact Committee

**SUBJECT: AB 265 (CALOZA) SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY FUND ACT
SUPPORT – AS INTRODUCED JANUARY 17, 2025**

The California Chamber of Commerce is pleased to SUPPORT your **AB 265** (Caloza). This vital legislation addresses a critical gap in disaster recovery assistance for small businesses and nonprofit organizations that are disproportionately affected by severe weather events and other declared states of emergency.

California's small businesses and non-profits are the backbone of our economy, employing nearly half of the state's workforce. However, many of these businesses, particularly those owned by minorities, women, and underserved communities, face significant barriers to accessing timely financial assistance after disasters. **AB 265's** establishment of a \$100 million state-funded program and will provide much-needed resources to ensure small businesses can recover, rebuild, and invest in resilient infrastructure.

The key provisions of **AB 265**, including allocating 90% of the fund to competitive grants, prioritizing resilience-focused projects, and supporting technical assistance for underserved populations, demonstrate a thoughtful approach to fostering economic recovery and long-term sustainability. The matching fund requirement also ensures efficient leveraging of public and private resources, maximizing the impact of the program.

We believe **AB 265** is a crucial step toward creating a more equitable and robust recovery framework for California's small businesses and nonprofit organizations. By supporting this legislation, we can help safeguard jobs, strengthen local economies, and build community resilience for the future.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to California's small businesses. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Ashley Hoffman
Senior Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce

California Retailers Association
Coalition of Small and Disabled Veteran Businesses
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Mastercard
National Federation for Independent Business

cc: Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Omar Hasheyman, Office of Assemblymember Caloza

Consultant, Assembly Economic Development, Growth and Household Impact Committee
Katie Patrick, Assembly Republican Caucus

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