July XX, 2022

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris

Assemblymember, District 74

California State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2019 (Petrie-Norris and Holden) – Equity in State Procurement – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

It is a great honor to support AB 2019 with you and Asm. Holden to ensure that small business owners have an equitable chance for being considered in State contracts.

California contributes 1/7th of the United States’ GDP, and is home to **3.9 million small businesses**, which make up **99.8% of all businesses**, of which **1.6 million are minority-owned**. Small businesses not only contribute significantly to the tax base of the State but also accounted for **7 million Californians or 48.8%** of all employment in the State. It is therefore necessary, as a matter of policy, for the State of California to ensure that a fair share of procurement spending be directed and dedicated to small and minority-owned small businesses.

AB 2019 establishes economic equity in State contracting by doing three primary things:

1) Codifying the goal of 25% of State procurement to be directed toward small businesses.

2) Fast-track of small business certification for “Disadvantaged Business Enterprises” (DBEs).

3) Establish accountability within the Administration and throughout the bureaucracy, to enforce the intent of meeting that goal, while directing all State agencies to develop and enact an education and outreach plan, which will inform their communication strategy to minority and hard-to-reach businesses.

Much has been said this past year about the importance of “equity” when it comes to small and minority-owned businesses. There is no greater success to a business owner, or any kind, to secure more contracts. Considering the vast purchasing power and influence of the State of California, enacting AB 2019 will be a critical next step to raising the tide for all small businesses in the State.

For the reasons stated above, we proudly stand with you and Asm. Holden, in support of this bill, to ensure the nearly 4 million small business owners have an equitable chance of being considered for State contracts.

Sincerely,

(Insert Signature Block)