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May 15, 2024

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Stephen Padilla
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed 50% Budget Cut to Small Business Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and Capital Infusion Program (CIP) at GO-Biz- **OPPOSE**

Dear Budget Chairs and Budget Subcommittee Chairs:

The City of Imperial respectfully **OPPOSES** the Governor’s proposed 50% budget cut to the core business support services of the Small Business Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and Capital Infusion Program (CIP) at GO-Biz. While we appreciate the fiscal challenge the Governor currently faces, the budget should not be balanced by reducing these core services that support to our small, minority, women-owned and rural businesses.

Small businesses are the backbone of California’s recovering economy. This \$13 million cut to TAP and CIP will gut the ecosystem that currently supports over 100,000 businesses with training and consulting. These fundamental programs show consistent year-over-year results, are net-positive in sales and income tax revenue-generating, and leverage over \$35 million in federal funding that could be lost. Every district will see reduced jobs and revenue growth. What is worse, **the most marginalized businesses in California will be hurt most severely.**

We call on the respective California Budget Committees to stand in solidarity with our small businesses and maintain current funding for TAP and CIP.

Questions regarding this letter and our opposition to the budget cut may be addressed to Dennis H. Morita, City Manager, (760) 355-4373 or DMorita@cityofimperial.org.

Sincerely,

Robert Amparano
Mayor