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**LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ASSOCIATIONS GRAB SACRAMENTO'S EAR**

*LOS ANGELES, Calif.* (February 26, 2021) – Members of both the Los Angeles County Business Federation, BizFed, and Central Valley Business Federation, BizFed CV, just concluded a weeklong virtual event with key Sacramento legislators, to discuss the biggest issues facing California businesses today.

Over 130 BizFed members attended exclusive panel discussions and small group discussions with legislators on Broadband Access, Transportation Systems, Streamlining Housing Production, Pandemic Economic Relief, and Energy Reliability. Most notably the legislators emerged from an emergency budget meeting approving the \$9.6 billion pandemic relief package including low income one-time \$600 payments and \$2.1 billion in small business grants. The governor signed the bill package on Tuesday.

“We had the unique opportunity to sit with key lawmakers and share the concerns of diverse employers, which we trust will lead to better, and more purposeful lawmaking” said Donna Duperron, Chair of BizFed Los Angeles.

Kicking off BizFed's Sacramento Week panels, Assemblymembers Miguel Santiago and Al Muratsuchi, as well as George Soares, a policy consultant for Senator Lena Gonzalez, stressed the need to get high-quality and fast Internet service to every household and every stakeholder, which would require significant investment in infrastructure, preserving affordability, and then access to devices.

California transportation experts pushed back on concerns that SB-1, the transportation funding bill from 2017 and 2018, were being diverted for unrelated projects. Randy Chinn, chief consultant for the Senate Transportation Committee, said that he'd heard the same concerns from members of the business community that the Administration, not the Legislature, was considering diverting funds for a climate action plan, but added that SB-1 funds were already in short supply, as efforts to maintain state roadways appear to be approximately \$60 billion short.

Senator Scott Weiner, Senator Anthony Portantino and Assemblyman Richard Bloom, warriors of the state's battle to build more housing told BizFed members their opinion on what it would take

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to break through the logjam preventing the state from coming anywhere near building an adequate supply of housing.

Senator Andreas Borgeas opened the second day of BizFed's Sacramento Week panels saying that the federal response to COVID was a "massive failure," in that California should not be in a bidding war with other states for resources, nor should counties and cities be pit against each other, adding that the state "absolutely" should have a plan to reopen schools instead of a "patchwork approach."

And finally, speaking on BizFed's fifth and final panel for Sacramento Week, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Senator Susan Rubio and Assemblymember Chris Holden, talked about the state's climate goals, and lamented public safety power shut offs and said they should never happen again.

The Los Angeles County Business Federation, BizFed, began in 2008 as a grassroots effort to join businesses and associations together to share fast moving intelligence, from every level of government, impacting jobs and employers. Since then, BizFed has grown to include more than 210 diverse business associations, representing and unifying the voice of over 450,000 companies from every part of the greater Los Angeles region.

Companies in the Central Valley who are also members of BizFed saw how working together on tough issues helped the Los Angeles County economy and sought to bring that success to the Central Valley.

In 2017, BizFed Central Valley, a franchise of BizFed, was created. It currently has more than 45 top business associations, with over 30,000 business members from Madera to Kern counties.

"Sacramento Week was eye-opening on so many levels and the opportunity to partner with BizFed Los Angeles, to bring the needs of the Central Valley to top of mind for these decision-makers was invaluable," said William Bourdeau, Chair of BizFed Central Valley. "We're not looking for handout. We just want a fair shot at having our unique needs addressed."

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### **About Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed)**

With more than 200 diverse business organizations representing 450,000 employers with nearly 4 million employees throughout L.A. County, BizFed is a massive grassroots alliance that advocates for policies and projects that strengthen the regional economy. Leveraging power in numbers, BizFed explores all sides of critical issues and takes timely action to make a difference for business growth, job creation, and economic vitality in Southern California.

### **About Central Valley Business Federation (BizFed CV)**

BizFed Central Valley is a grassroots federation of businesses and associations from Madera to Kern counties. With over 65 members, we represent 30,000 businesses from a wide array of industry sectors and nearly 400,000 employees.