

TO: WIB

DATE: 05/11/06

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Advocacy Letter

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.

DISCUSSION: On behalf of the Workforce Investment Board, the attached letter has been sent to State Senator Liz Figueroa, Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, urging the passage of Senate Bill 1537, which reinstates the California Business Investment Services Unit (CalBIS) within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

**ATTACHMENT(S):
Letter**



**WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**
MERCED COUNTY

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April 20, 2006

Honorable Liz Figueroa
Chair, Senate Committee on Business,
Professions, and Economic Development
State Capitol. 2053
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Figueroa:

Re: SB 1537 – Support

On behalf of the Workforce Investment Board of Merced County (WIB), I respectfully urge you, the respective Committee, other legislators, and Governor Schwarzenegger to support and pass Senate Bill (SB) 1537, which reinstates the California Business Investment Services Unit (CalBIS) within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

CalBIS is an essential component to California's future and economy, and is a critical partner of all of Merced's economic development programs. The WIB has partnered with those economic development entities for major industries such as:

- Scholle Corporation – Food Packaging, 120 employees, 3 expansions
- Arvin Sango – Auto Components, 70 employees, 2 expansions

Most recently, CalBIS played an important role in assisting the City of Merced with recruiting the Wal-Mart Distribution Center project that will generate 600 jobs starting at \$13.50 per hour. The WIB will be collaborating in the recruitment and hiring for this new employer.

California needs CalBIS to serve as the single point of contact for employers, corporate real estate executives, site location consultants and other business representatives considering California for new business investment; and most importantly for our mission, job creation. For these reasons, I ask that you support SB 1537.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie McGarry
Chair