DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter opposing Senate Bill (SB) 776 – Workforce Investment Board (WIB) funding. SB 776 will require certain percentages of WIB funding to be spent on specific training activities and will severely limit the decision making abilities and funding leverage capabilities of the our local Mother Lode WIB. Amending SB 776 to ensure that available funding is used in an efficient manner without placing undue restrictions on local WIBs is a better approach. Both Tuolumne and Amador Counties have written letters opposing SB 776.

Please see the attached draft letter.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has opposed legislation that it believes is not in the best interest of the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not authorize the Chairman of Board of Supervisors to sign the letter. Individual Board members may draft their own letters, which may not carry the same weight as a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $________
Additional Funding Needed: $________
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue
Transfer Between Funds
Contingency ( ) General ( ) Other

List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Draft Letters

REVISED Dec. 2002
The Honorable Tom Berryhill  
California State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 3076  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Senate Bill 776

Dear Senator Berryhill:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors opposes Senate Bill (SB) 776 in its current form. SB 776 as it is now worded will impose harmful constraints on the efforts of the Mother Lode Workforce Investment Board (MLWIB) by restricting their decision making ability and negatively effect opportunities to leverage funding. Determining how and where resources are best implemented are issues that should not be legislated. In addition, measuring a percentage of the dollars spent on training is not an accurate indication of effectiveness.

In this economy of job seekers, SB 776 would restrict MLWIB’s funding in such a way that there will only be sufficient Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formula funds to keep open the office buildings, but no staff to operate the vital program. Essentially this will have a devastating effect on our rural region’s employment and training abilities.

We encourage the proponents of SB 776 to meet with WIB representatives to discuss the true intentions of this bill and identify how it may be amended to ensure that funding is utilized in an efficient manner. A collaborative approach will satisfy all parties and still allow for sustainable employment and training services in these critical economic times.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this important issue.

Sincerely,

JIM ALLEN  
Chairman

JA/mbh

cc: California State Association of Counties  
Regional Council of Rural Counties  
Mother Lode Workforce Investment Board
The Honorable Kristin Olson  
California Assembly Member  
State Capitol, Room 2111  
Sacramento, California 95814  

RE: Senate Bill 776  

Dear Assembly Member Olson:  

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Sincerely,  

JIM ALLEN  
Chairman  

JA/mbh  

cc: California State Association of Counties  
Regional Council of Rural Counties  
Mother Lode Workforce Investment Board