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51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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April 12, 2010

Lisa Cohen  
CEO  
Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce  
233 4th Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Lisa:

For the past 18 years, I have been privileged to work on the behalf of cities like Chula Vista to ensure that the taxpayers of the 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District receive their rightful share of funding from the federal government.

As you know, securing federal matching funds, stimulus funding and other appropriations is critical for Chula Vista's progress on the construction of projects that improve the City's roads, transit, water and sewer infrastructure, and energy reliability.

I feel it is my responsibility to notify you of a potentially dangerous obstacle for the City of Chula Vista's receipt of federal funding and to urge the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce to take action against it.

A ballot measure that has qualified for the ballot, Proposition G, interferes with the City of Chula Vista's ability to access funding from other sources, including the U.S. Government, by placing restrictions on the types of public works projects the City can fund.

Specifically, the initiative asks, "Shall the ordinance prohibiting the City from funding or entering into public works contracts that require agreements with labor organizations or payments on behalf of employees to labor organization benefit plans or other trust funds be adopted?"

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As you can see, Proposition G does not create new opportunities for public works contractors or local workers, but instead has the potential to force the city to deny funding from any agencies or sources in which labor requirements exist.

For example: the transportation funding the City of Chula Vista receives from the U.S. government is conditioned on a state and local "match." As you know, all state monies used for public works projects is bound by the State Prevailing Wage Law, which includes a requirement that payments are made on behalf of an employee into an apprenticeship trust fund (Section 1777.5 (m) of the Labor Code).

Under Proposition G, that state money would be inaccessible to the City of Chula Vista. If the City cannot leverage State money for the project, then the City will not be able to apply for federal matching monies, which make up the bulk of funding for any significant transportation projects.

An even more recent and dangerous hypothetical situation comes to mind as well. I have toured areas in the 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District this week that were damaged by the series of earthquakes that struck the area this past week. It is the federal government's responsibility to respond to these natural disasters with Federal Emergency Relief funds, but only if there is a match from local jurisdictions of at least 25 percent (or 10 percent in impoverished communities). If Proposition G is approved, the vast majority of the City's potential funding for disaster relief would be jeopardized to the City of Chula Vista because, as the Stafford Act requires, the Federal Emergency Management Administration's Director cannot make a contribution of federal funds without first ensuring that prevailing labor standards are maintained by the construction work (Section 611(J)(9)).

For an organization that has prided itself as stewards of Chula Vista's business community, I trust the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce has contemplated the potential pitfalls of Proposition G and its impact on the City's ability to invite development to the City.

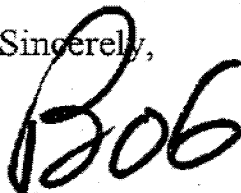
The 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional stretches from Chula Vista to the Arizona border. There is much work to be done throughout the border region and I take pride in advocating for the entire constituency that I represent in the United States Congress. I hope to continue to be advocating for the allocation of federal funds to the City of Chula

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Vista, but I'm afraid that responsibility will amount to a "fool's errand" if Proposition G succeeds.

Please join me in opposing this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The letters are stylized and cursive.

BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

BF/jg  
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