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Washington, D.C. 20005
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June 19, 2013

Via FAX (916) 319-2188

Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski,
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 193 – SUPPORT

The American Sustainable Business Council is writing to express our support for SB 193 – Assisting Employers to Protect Employees Exposed to Toxic Materials.

The American Sustainable Business Council is a growing coalition of business networks and businesses committed to public policies that cultivate a vibrant, just and sustainable economy. Our partner organizations represent over 160,000 businesses and social enterprises and more than 300,000 entrepreneurs, owners, executive, investors and business professionals in California and around the county.

We are concerned that current law [[Labor Code 147.2\(b\)\(1\)](#)] gives HESIS a mandate it cannot fulfill -- provide information of practical use to our members, and other California employers, employees, and others about toxic workplace hazards. Our members want HESIS to be able to find out where toxics are used in California, so it can provide the early warnings we need as responsible employers.

We contend that there is a strong business case for this bill. Today's business leaders are concerned about the health and business impacts that can arise if the products they use or sell contain toxic chemicals, as well as the toxic chemical exposures that may occur to their employees and others as a result of their supply chains. Dealing with hazardous chemicals is costly to businesses on many fronts. That's why leading companies are highly motivated to identify and use safer alternatives to toxic chemicals. Transparency is the first step in this process.

This bill provides HESIS the ability to request information from manufacturers, suppliers, etc., as needed, to fulfill HESIS' existing mandate to provide reliable information of practical use to employers, employees, etc., about possible hazards to employees from exposure to toxic materials or harmful physical agents.

This bill is consistent with the data that we have been collecting from independent polls of small business owners. It is also important to note that that this data transcends party lines; 47% of the respondents were Republican, 27% Democratic and 23% Independent.

- 82% believe that business should be required to share chemical ingredient information all along the manufacturing supply chain;
- 75% support stricter regulations of chemicals used in everyday products;
- 73% support government regulations to ensure the products companies buy and sell are non-toxic; and
- 91% support chemical manufacturers being held responsible for ensuring their chemicals are safe.

SB 193 will contribute toward clarity in the workplace and marketplace, and build trust amongst the public as well as between businesses and their employees; all of which will be good for businesses' financial bottom line. Workers are often exposed to toxics whose health effects are not all known, making HESIS's ability to act quickly and efficiently vital to protect workers' health and safety and prevent disruptions in the supply chains, again providing benefits to business.

Passage of this bill can drive the supply of much-needed information that businesses need to make sound decisions, leading to business growth and job creation in California.

We therefore urge passage of SB 193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Levine".

David Levine, CEO

Cc: Assembly Judiciary Committee Members



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May 6, 2013

Senator Bill Monning
State Capitol Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 90301
c/o Kathy.Smith@sen.ca.gov

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