



April 6, 2018

The Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry, Chair
Assembly Committee On Local Government
Room 157, 1020 N Street (LOB)
Sacramento, CA 95815
Attention: Dixie Petty

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

RE: SUPPORT: AB 2578, Seawall Improvements (Chiu; Co-sponsors Wiener and Ting)

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry and Assemblymember Chiu,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing the interests of thousands of local businesses, supports Assemblymember David Chiu's bill, AB 2578, that will provide an estimated \$250 million to restore San Francisco's 100 year-old seawall.

The seawall provides flood protection to San Francisco's downtown core, eastside neighborhoods and vital transportation infrastructure including MUNI and BART. It underpins the Embarcadero Promenade which welcomes over 24 million visitors and produces over \$100 billion in economic activity annually.

Unfortunately, the seawall was built before the adoption of seismic construction standards on bay fill at sites now designated as seismic hazard areas. A catastrophic event like a major earthquake or flood may result in significant loss of life and damage to San Francisco Port facilities, downtown buildings, critical utilities and transportation infrastructure.

Major upgrades to repair and reinforce the seawall are urgently needed, but the cost will be in the billions of dollars. The City and County of San Francisco seeks to establish one or more infrastructure financing districts to finance public facilities along the waterfront to help fund this extraordinarily important capitol project.

It is vital that we reinvest in San Francisco's seawall to protect and preserve the waterfront for future generations. AB 2578 provides a creative mechanism for the State of California to contribute much needed revenue for the life of the seawall upgrade project.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce supports AB 2578 and urges the Assembly Committee on Local Government to support it as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Lazarus'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President, Public Policy

cc: To Be Distributed to Assembly Committee on Local Government members; Senator Scott Wiener; Assemblymember Phil Ting; Elaine Forbes, Port of SF Executive Director; Kimberly Brandon; Port of San Francisco Commission President