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April 21, 2015

Senator Mark Leno  
State Capitol Rm 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 3 – State Minimum Wage**

Dear Senator Leno:

On behalf of the Cities Association Board of Directors, I write to you in support of SB 3, which proposes to raise the minimum wage to \$13 by July 1, 2017 and index the wage to the California Consumer Price Index thereafter.

The Cities Association is a collaboration of the 15 cities in Santa Clara County and advocates on behalf of the cities to improve the quality of life for the people of our county. In Santa Clara County, the cities of San Jose, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale have established inflation-indexed minimum wages of \$10.30. Sunnyvale and Mountain View have additionally set a goal of reaching \$15.00 by 2018. The Cities Association adopted minimum wage as a priority for 2015 in order to explore minimum wage for regional consistency.

SB 3 proposes a reasonable step-increase approach by raising the minimum wage to \$11/hr in January of 2016, \$13/hr in July of 2017, and beginning in January of 2019, an annual raise based on the rate of inflation. Under current law, California will not reach a minimum wage of \$10/hr until 2016. According to U.S. Census Data, California has one of the highest costs of living and poverty rates in the nation, widening the gap between the rich and poor, particularly in places like Silicon Valley. SB 3 will help improve the living conditions for millions of Californians and help lift them out of poverty.

For these reasons, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County supports SB 3 and raising the minimum wage to improve the quality of lives for millions of Californians.

Thank you for your invaluable leadership.

Sincerely,

Jason T. Baker  
President, Cities Association of Santa Clara County  
Vice Mayor, City of Campbell