

ADDRESS TO CHINO ROTARY
Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen it's a pleasure to speak to service club members as we all care about our communities.

How many of you still actively run a business??

Are you tired of taxes being raised?

Are you tired of legislators making business pay for everything??

Are you tired of Sacramento's attitude that it's a crime to make a profit??

Or are you just plain disgusted and tired of government interference in the free enterprise system??

If you answered YES to any of these questions, then you are ready to support an organization that will spend 95% of its efforts in making elected officials accountable, and represents more than 60,000 businesses (what's left of them) on a broad range of regional, state and federal legislative concerns. This powerful group will serve as a catalyst, advocate, lobbyist and educator, ensuring that a pro-business agenda is on the front burner for small businesses.

That organization is the Inland Valley Business Alliance, known as the IVBA. Our mission will be accomplished by leading a high profile pro-active advocacy program for business interests throughout the county and state, focusing on Infrastructure, Health Care, Water, Worker's

Compensation, workforce development and workforce housing.

IVBA is West San Bernardino County's Ultimate Business Connection and voice of business.

The **Ultimate Business Connection** is the networking arm of the Alliance. We meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 11:30 a.m. at Antonino's Ristorante Italiano located in the Thomas Winery Plaza at the corner of Foothill Blvd., and Vineyard Ave. The cost is \$15 for lunch and networking.

In addition to networking, legislative issues are discussed as well as Survival Tips on how to sustain in this white water economy.

We are not a Chamber! We actually supplement Chambers and Leads Clubs. The only time we will get involved with City issues is if one of our members claims they are not getting any help from the Chamber in dealing with their respective city, then we will address the situation.

We will primarily deal with county, state and federal issues.

Let me address California's Economy that is a nightmare to say the least.

(Following information courtesy of State Senator Bob Dutton, 31st District)

The nation is mired in the deepest recession since the Great Depression, and job losses continue to mount. But as bad as things are nationally, California is faring far

worse - with a double-digit unemployment rate exceeding the national average by more than two percent. In the **Inland Empire, unemployment is now above 14%.**

Yet state lawmakers and regulators seem oblivious to the hard times ordinary Californians are facing. They continue to suck the life out of the Golden State's economy by prescribing more taxes and red tape.

Take for instance a recent decision by the State Water Resources Control Board. Not content to wait for federal standards, the board voted to impose burdensome and questionable new requirements on construction projects across the state. Businesses who fail to meet these restrictive new regulations face fines of up to \$27,000 per day.

It's hard to guess what is going through the minds of these unelected board members—who receive taxpayer-funded six-figure salaries to make these types of decisions. In their thirst to command and regulate, it's clear they didn't consider the economic impact their actions will have on California's fragile business climate, and in particular, construction jobs.

California's construction industry is being hard hit by this recession. In the past year, more than 140,000 construction jobs have vanished—a startling 18.6% decline. By comparison, government jobs have only declined 1%. If there was ever an industry that could use a reprieve from costly new regulations, construction is it.

The water board's new regulations do nothing to aid the ailing industry; nor will they create new jobs—except perhaps for government bureaucrats. Instead, construction firms and their contractors could be driven out of business, courtesy of state regulators and environmentalist lawyers who target the private sector with frivolous punitive actions.

Don't get me wrong. Our organization is a strong advocate of clean and safe drinking water for Californians, and we support reasonable measures to protect our lakes, rivers and streams from contamination.

But the water board's new requirements do nothing to protect our drinking water and are anything but commonsense. Instead, these job-killing regulations, without a proven scientific basis, impose daily new reporting requirements on every single project in the state. Rather than target the bad actors, state bureaucrats once again are punishing everyone. It's no wonder employers avoid California like the plague!

This is not the time for new regulations that cost California taxpayers their jobs. State lawmakers and regulators should be prioritizing jobs rather than putting them at risk. They should be helping businesses by eliminating pointless paperwork and policies that don't provide clear, proven benefits for the people of California. Our legislators should be seeking greater conformity with national

standards to improve our state's competitiveness.

Given that bureaucrats don't seem to understand these basic realities, the Governor should issue an executive order immediately freezing all pending fees, regulations and taxes until further notice. The Legislature should take similar action on pending legislation.

If California could simply lower its unemployment rate to match the national average, it could provide jobs for more than 400,000 unemployed workers.

Let's put the state's bureaucracy to work looking for ways to end the regulatory nightmare for our state's job creators.

Every job matters. It's time to stop killing them.

You can help IVBA bring some common sense and sanity to Sacramento by investing in the organization. Your investment helps insure that IVBA has financial stability to keep a professional staff that watches our legislators and craft strategies that have a major influence in Political Action.

Our website is www.ivbusiness.org. You will find links to various resources on legislative issues. Our position on Health Care is posted as well as our Credo. Letters on various "Job Killer" legislation are currently being drafted for you to use in supporting or opposing various issues