



Thanks for supporting the [WORC Coalition's efforts](#) to save California's community based small businesses through worker ownership transitions! Find our sample outreach materials below. **For more resources on how to support, including step-by-step instructions on submitting letters of support, visit [Worker-Owned Recovery California: State Budget Call to Action](#).**

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Senator Nancy Skinner (EAST BAY)

[East Bay Anchor Cities in Senator Skinner's District 9](#): Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro

Priority 1 - Call Senator Nancy Skinner (Phone Call Script & Instructions)

INSTRUCTIONS: Call Nancy Skinner's Capitol Office at (916) 651-4009 and leave a voicemail using the following script and talking points. NOTE: If you are a resident of [District 9](#) (including the cities of Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro), be prepared to state your **full name, address, phone number, and email address**.

- My name is [YOUR FULL NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND EMAIL ADDRESS] and I am a [BUSINESS OWNER or WORKER or RESIDENT] [of District 9](#).
- I am calling to request that you SUBMIT a Senate Budget Request for the \$10M COVID-19 Assistance for Small Business Retention & Worker Ownership Transitions.
- (It goes to voicemail: leave your name, address and phone number.)

More details and talking points to share are [here](#).

Priority 2 - Email Senator Nancy Skinner

TO: Senator.Skinner@senate.ca.gov; Margaret.Hanlon-Gradie@sen.ca.gov; Robert.Gammon@sen.ca.gov; Sherry.McCoy@sen.ca.gov; Erik.Aguilar@sen.ca.gov; Angela.Yip@sen.ca.gov; Marvin.Deon@sen.ca.gov; Katerina.Robinson@sen.ca.gov; Zachary.Leary@sen.ca.gov; Tania.Dikho@sen.ca.gov; Michelle.Sonico@sen.ca.gov

SUBJECT LINE: SUPPORT \$10M in COVID-19 Assistance for Small Business Retention & Worker Ownership Transitions

EMAIL BODY:

Dear Senator Skinner and Staff,

I am emailing to request that you follow the lead of [Assemblymembers Chu, Kalra, Gonzalez, Limón, Bloom, and Bonta](#) and SUBMIT a Senate **budget request** for a

One-Time Investment of \$10M in COVID-19 Assistance for Small Business Retention & Worker Ownership Transitions. I want you to take action now so that we can create a more equitable California economy, especially for underpaid workers and people of color.

Senators Wiener and Wieckowski are ready to sign onto this budget request immediately. Your district has the highest number of worker-owned businesses and employee-ownership support organizations in California! As your constituent, I urge you to be our champion for worker ownership at this critical time.

Thank you,

[YOUR FULL NAME AND BUSINESS] and if you are in her (District 9), list it!

Priority 3 - Post on social media and tag Senator Skinner

[Click here to Tweet!](#)

We need @NancySkinnerCA to be a champion of working people! Do what is right for your district and #California. Submit a budget proposal to save small businesses thru worker ownership transitions! @Scott_Wiener & @BobWieckowskiCA said they will support! https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

AND

43% of small biz have < 6 months until they permanently close disproportionately impacting communities of color. The best people to buy these businesses are THE WORKERS! @NancySkinnerCA support worker ownership in the Senate! https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Facebook/LinkedIn

California is at risk of losing nearly 1.7 million small businesses, representing over 3 million jobs, within the next four months if it does not take immediate action to preserve them. More than 100 studies show that worker ownership is good for businesses, good for jobs, and good for society. It's truly a win-win-win. Support the Worker-Owned Recover California Coalition's campaign to catalyze worker ownership in our state! @StateSenatorNancySkinner, submit a budget proposal to save small businesses thru worker ownership transitions! https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Senator María Elena Durazo (LA AREA)

Los Angeles Neighborhoods in Senator Durazo's District 24: Boyle Heights, El Sereno, Highland Park, Eagle Rock, Glassell Park, Mt. Washington, Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights, Atwater Village, Elysian Valley, Arlington Heights, Echo Park, Silver Lake, Los Feliz, East Hollywood, Little Armenia, Thai Town, Larchmont, Koreatown, Pico-Union, Westlake-MacArthur Park, Historic Filipinotown, Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Arts District, Civic Center, City Terrace, and East Los Angeles.

Priority 1 - Call Senator María Elena Durazo (Phone Call Script & Instructions)

INSTRUCTIONS: Call Senator Durazo's Capitol Office at (916) 651-4024 and leave a message using the following script and talking points. NOTE: If you are a resident of [District 24](#), be prepared to state your **full name, address, phone number, and email address**.

- My name is [YOUR FULL NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND EMAIL ADDRESS] and I am a [BUSINESS OWNER or WORKER or RESIDENT] [District 24](#).
- I am calling to request that you SUBMIT a Senate Budget Request for the \$10M COVID-19 Assistance for Small Business Retention & Worker Ownership Transitions.”
- (If it goes to voicemail: leave your name, address and phone number.)

More details and talking points to share are [here](#).

Priority 2 - Email Senator María Elena Durazo

TO: Senator.Durazo@senate.ca.gov, Jennifer.Richard@sen.ca.gov, Bethany.Renfree@sen.ca.gov

SUBJECT LINE: SUPPORT \$10M in COVID-19 Assistance for Small Business Retention & Worker Ownership Transitions

EMAIL BODY:

Dear Senator Durazo and Staff,

I am emailing to request that you follow the lead of [Assemblymembers Chu, Kalra, Gonzalez, Limón, Bloom, and Bonta](#) and SUBMIT a Senate **budget request for a**

One-Time Investment of \$10M in COVID-19 Assistance for Small Business Retention & Worker Ownership Transitions. I want you to take action now so that we can create a more equitable California economy, especially for underpaid workers and people of color.

Senators Wiener and Wieckowski are ready to sign onto this budget request immediately. District 24 has so much to gain from worker ownership. As your constituent, I urge you to be our champion for worker ownership at this critical time.

Thank you,

[YOUR FULL NAME AND BUSINESS] and if you are in her (District 24), list it!

Priority 3 - Post on social media and tag Senator Durazo

[Click here to Tweet at Sen. Durazo!](#)

We need @SenMariaEDurazo to be a champion of working people! Do what is right for your district and #California. Submit a budget proposal to save small businesses thru worker ownership transitions! @Scott_Wiener & @BobWieckowskiCA said they will support! https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

AND

43% of small biz have < 6 months until they permanently close disproportionately impacting communities of color. The best people to buy these businesses are THE WORKERS! @SenMariaEDurazo support worker ownership in the Senate!

https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Facebook/LinkedIn

[Click here to share on Facebook!](#)

California is at risk of losing nearly 1.7 million small businesses, representing over 3 million jobs, within the next four months if it does not take immediate action to preserve them. More than 100 studies show that worker ownership is good for businesses, good for jobs, and good for society. It's truly a win-win-win. Support the Worker-Owned Recover California Coalition's campaign to catalyze worker ownership in our state! @SenatorMariaElenaDurazo, submit a budget proposal to save small businesses thru worker ownership transitions! https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Call Script & Talking Points for Other Legislators

Calling a CA Senator

- I am calling to request that you follow the lead of [Assemblymembers Chu, Kalra, Gonzalez, Limón, Bloom, and Bonta](#) and submit and/or support a **Senate budget request for a one-time investment of \$10M to support worker ownership**. I want you to take action now so that we can create a more equitable California economy, especially for underpaid workers and people of color.
- Senators Wiener and Wieckowski have committed to sign on to the budget request as soon as we find a Senator to submit it!
- California is at risk of losing nearly 1.7 million small businesses, representing over 3 million jobs, within the **next four months** if you do not take immediate action to preserve them.
- Rather than selling to large corporations or out-of-state buyers or simply closing their doors for good, **business owners can find willing buyers in their own employees!**
- This small budget request will catalyze big change through critical outreach, technical assistance, and forgivable loans for businesses that transition to worker ownership.
- [ADD ANYTHING ABOUT WHY YOU SUPPORT WORKER OWNERSHIP] For example, “Senator Skinner, Your district has the highest number of worker-owned businesses and employee-ownership support organizations in California! As your constituent, I urge you to be our champion for worker ownership at this critical time.”

Calling a CA Assemblymember

I am calling to SUPPORT [Assemblymember Kansen Chu's budget request for a one-time investment of \\$10M to support worker ownership](#) as a way to ensure that California's economic recovery creates a more equitable economy, especially for lower-wage workers and workers of color.

California is at risk of losing nearly 1.7 million small businesses, representing over 3 million jobs, within the **next four months** if it does not take immediate action to preserve them.

I know that our representatives must make impossible choices in light of devastating budget shortfalls, but this small appropriation can make a big difference for our economy and for workers.

The \$10M we request will support education, technical assistance, and forgivable loans for businesses that transition to worker ownership. This may be the best alternative for small businesses that might otherwise close during this recession or because their owners are ready to retire.

More than 100 studies show that worker ownership is good for businesses, good for jobs, and good for society. It's truly a win-win-win. [for those who want to see the "evidence," refer them to this link: www.project-equity.org/whitepaper which has dozens of studies cited]

In fact, a number of states and even the federal government have invested in worker ownership. The Main Street Employee Ownership Act was passed at the federal level in 2018, mandating the Small Business Administration to support worker ownership.

Even with all the tragedy, the COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity to create businesses that truly support workers, while creating more resilient businesses and communities before the next crisis.

Even before COVID, there were 300,000 businesses at risk in California because their owners are older and don't have a succession plan. Rather than selling to large corporations or out-of-state buyers or simply closing their doors for good, business owners can find willing buyers in their own employees!

The State of California can support struggling business owners and workers by supporting the transition of companies to worker ownership. Doing so will anchor essential production and services in communities, save jobs, and save the State money.

There are nonprofit organizations and professional service providers throughout California ready to help business owners sell their companies to their employees. This is a realistic and well-proven approach, and we have 100s of worker-owned businesses already throughout California.

The state could use funds from the CARES Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the General Fund or other sources to make this \$10M investment. The state's investment could also be supplemented by philanthropic or impact investment funds, and a large existing movement for worker ownership in this state will support the effective use of these funds.

To summarize, this \$10M investment will 1) save businesses that provide critical access to goods and services, 2) keep vulnerable Californians employed, and 3) put California on a path to a more equitable economy through worker ownership -- all at a small fraction of the cost of unemployment and workforce development programs.

I urge your office to support the [budget request submitted on May 29th by Assemblymembers Chu, Kalra, Gonzalez, Limón, Bloom, and Bonta](#).

Email Content to Contact Your Representative

You can also email your representative and their staff by using [this template email](#).

Sample Social Media Posts

- See below for pre-made tweets at the budget chairs + a sample Facebook post.
- [Click here and scroll down for the twitter handles of key budget committee members](#)

→ Want to tweet at your own Senator/Assemblymember? [Click here to find your reps.](#)

Twitter

Sample Tweet #1

The CA state budget needs to support Small Business Retention thru Worker Ownership Transitions! @HollyJMitchell @PhilTing @AsmJimCooper @CASenCaballero ensure that worker cooperatives are included in CA's economic recovery plans!
<https://bit.ly/2UeyYHY>

Sample Tweet #2:

Save our community-based small businesses across California through worker ownership transitions! @HollyJMitchell @PhilTing @AsmJimCooper @CASenCaballero help us ensure this vital economic empowerment tool is supported on June 15th!
https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Sample Tweet #3:

#California can support struggling business owners and workers by advancing a critical solution: supporting the transition of companies to worker ownership! @AsmJimCooper @CASenCaballero, ensure this vital economic empowerment tool is supported June 15th!
https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Sample Tweet #4:

43% of small businesses have less than 6 months until a permanent business closure. And the best people to buy out these businesses are those working inside them everyday: THE WORKERS! @AsmJimCooper @CASenCaballero support worker ownership on June 15th! https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Sample Tweet #5:

Worker coops allow workers to own and control enterprises and assets that they depend on for livelihoods, sustenance, and ecological well-being. @HollyJMitchell @PhilTing @AsmJimCooper @CASenCaballero ensure that worker coops are included in California's economic recovery plans! https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition

Facebook/LinkedIn

California is at risk of losing nearly 1.7 million small businesses, representing over 3 million jobs, within the next four months if it does not take immediate action to preserve them. More than 100 studies show that worker ownership is good for businesses, good for jobs, and good for society. It's truly a win-win-win. Support the Worker-Owned Recover

California Coalition's campaign to catalyze worker ownership in our state!
https://www.theselc.org/worc_coalition