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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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April 23, 2024

The Honorable Gail Pellerin
Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections
1020 N Street, Room 365
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2911 (McKinnor), Repeal of SB 1439 (Glazer, 2022) and arbitrarily low campaign contribution limits - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Pellerin,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 2911 (McKinnor), which would repeal SB 1439 (Ch. 848, 2022) and restore local campaign finance laws to pre-2022 levels. Campaign finance transparency is a pillar of a strong democracy. State and local campaign finance laws have evolved over the years to make campaign finance information easier to understand, reflect technological innovations and to increase basic transparency about who contributes to candidates and independent expenditure campaigns.

An exception to this tradition was 2022 legislation, which claimed to address a perceived problem with local campaign finance laws and the amount of dark money used in state and local elections. The 2022 law's arbitrarily low contribution limit has made it difficult for state and local candidates to communicate directly with voters. The 2022 legislation has also resulted in local governments spending millions of dollars (collectively) in compliance, reducing resources available to provide essential local services to residents and taxpayers.

AB 2911 will encourage campaign donors to contribute directly to candidates, maintain transparency, and save local governments in compliance costs, allowing limited local resources to be better spent on essential services for residents.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors supports this legislation and respectfully requests that you vote **YES on AB 2911**.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of David Couch, written in a cursive style.

David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Elections
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
California State Association of Counties
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange