

# ALERT

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## ‘Job Killer’ Bills Meeting Mixed Fates in Final Days



With less than two weeks remaining before the scheduled end of the legislative year, numerous “job killer” proposals are still moving through the process.

The Senate and Assembly Appropriations committees met last week to consider long lists of legislation. September 11 is the last day for each house to pass legislation for consideration by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

### In Senate

As *Alert* went to press, the following “job killers” awaited action by the Senate:

● **AB 5 (Wolk; D-Davis) Housing Development Restrictions.** Stops new housing development in the Central Valley by punishing new development for the failure of local agencies to develop flood control plans which are based on information not available until 2011.

● **AB 8 (Núñez; D-Los Angeles) Health Care Tax on Employers.** Imposes a tax on small employers who can’t afford to provide health care coverage, to fund health care coverage for those who don’t currently purchase it.

● **AB 35 (Ruskin; D-Redwood City) Increased Construction Costs.** Increases cost to businesses by shifting the development of “green building” standards for

*See ‘Job Killer’: Page 7*

## Bill Ending Farmworker Union Elections Heads to Governor



California Chamber of Commerce-**opposed** legislation that hurts the competitiveness of California agriculture producers and sends the wrong message to California

businesses has passed the Legislature and now awaits action by the Governor.

**SB 180 (Migden; D-San Francisco)** will drive businesses out of state, kill jobs and increase the loss of farmland by artificially increasing labor costs for California producers who must compete in a global market with lower-than-average operating costs. The bill removes the secret ballot election requirement for union representation and prohibits employer communication with employees.

SB 180 proposes to take away a worker’s right to a private ballot when deciding whether to join a union by replacing the private ballot with a “card check” process, which allows a union to organize if a majority of workers simply sign a card. Under this system, the union organizers themselves oversee the process, and the workers’ votes are made public to the employer, the union organizers and co-workers.

In opposing the bill, the CalChamber pointed out that workers are better pro-

*See Bill: Page 3*

## CalChamber Hosts Korean, German Officials



Luncheons hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce provide opportunities for attendees to hear from His Excellency Lee Tae-sik (left), Korean ambassador to the United States, and the Honorable Frank-Walter Steinmeier, minister for foreign affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany. See stories on Pages 4-5.

### Inside

CalChamber Urges Revise of Meal/Rest Rules: Page 3

# CalChamber Discusses Climate, Energy with German Minister for Foreign Affairs

The California Chamber of Commerce hosted the Honorable Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, at an international luncheon last week to discuss climate and energy policy.

More than 80 guests attended the working luncheon on August 30 and greeted Minister Steinmeier. Among the attendees were California and German government officials and business people from California and Germany, including representatives of transportation, manufacturing and technology.

## Article

Minister Steinmeier is the first German foreign minister to travel to California in more than 50 years. Luncheon conversations revolved around a recent article by Minister Steinmeier that addressed the need for cooperation between all nations to combat climate changes.

“We need to increase international cooperation, deepen existing partnerships and forge new global climate and energy alliances,” he wrote.

Steinmeier recognizes that California is a political and economic heavyweight in the United States and a trailblazer in environmental and climate protection, calling the state “a key partner” in pursuing a global market for CO2 trading.

“We must seize this opportunity and coordinate our policy more closely with California and all other willing U.S. states so as to create a transatlantic trade in CO2,” he wrote.

## Support for Climate, Economy

The CalChamber will work to



The Honorable Frank-Walter Steinmeier (center), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, chats with Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi (left) and California Chamber of Commerce President Allan Zaremberg after the August 30 CalChamber-hosted International Luncheon Forum for a delegation of German government officials, business and science representatives headed by the Minister.

minimize the compliance costs associated with climate change by actively pushing for measures that effectively reduce carbon while allowing for continued economic growth.

The CalChamber believes that to be a true leader on this issue, the state needs to share its proven energy efficiency knowledge while harnessing the innovation and creativity of its citizens to pioneer new, low-carbon technologies. In fact, policy approaches that recognize and encourage California’s leadership and innovation in the environmental arena can be more effective than taxes or fees. Successful technologies developed in California and implemented throughout the world could provide a win-win for

California businesses, both by helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions here and in other nations, and providing jobs in the state.

## Exports

The top four major items of export from California to Germany are: computers and electronic products, manufactured goods, transportation equipment, and chemicals. Computers and electronic products contributed to more than 44 percent of the total Californian exports to Germany. California exports of these items grew from \$ 4.2 billion in 2005 to \$4.5 billion in 2006.

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Mark Your  
Calendars

California Business Legislative Summit  
May 20-21, 2008