New Coalition to Educate Public about Safe Oil Extraction Technologies

The California Chamber of Commerce and a number of other groups have formed a coalition to educate the public and correct misinformation about proven, safe oil extraction technologies.

“Continued, safe domestic oil production is critical to our state’s energy independence and our economy. Currently 40% of our state’s petroleum energy needs are met with domestic supplies and our population is growing.”

CALIFORNIANS FOR A SAFE, SECURE ENERGY FUTURE

CalChamber Releases 2014 Job Killer List

The California Chamber of Commerce this week released its annual list of “job killer” bills, calling attention to the negative impact that 27 proposed measures would have on California’s job climate and economic recovery if they were to become law.

“The economic recovery is still the number one issue for Californians,” said CalChamber President and CEO Allan Zaremberg.

“These bills pose a serious threat to our economy and, if enacted, would dampen job growth in the state. While it is encouraging that the list of new job killer bills is smaller than in past years, the unfortunate consequence of any one of these bills becoming law would be harmful to our economy. Protection of the job climate remains CalChamber’s top priority.”

Legislation included on the “job killer” list will change throughout the year as bills are amended or new language is introduced.

The 2014 “job killer” list follows:

**Costly Workplace Mandates**
- **AB 1522 (Gonzalez; D-San Diego)** Paid Sick Leave — Increases employer mandates by requiring all employers, large and small, to provide all employees in California with paid sick leave, and threatens employers with statutory penalties as well as litigation for alleged violations.
- **AB 2604 (Brown; D-San Bernardino)** Exposes Employers to Disproportionate Workers’ Compensation Penalties — Dramatically increases penalties and costs for delayed payments and will result in disproportionate penalty awards that are significantly greater than the amount of the delayed payment.
- **SB 935 (Leno; D-San Francisco)** Minimum Wage — Unfairly increases employer costs by increasing the minimum wage to $13 by 2017 and then

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Bill Keeping State Competitive in Aerospace Flies Through Senate

A California Chamber of Commerce-supported bill that ensures California remains a competitive environment for an emerging multibillion-dollar industry passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with unanimous support this week and won Senate approval a few days later.

**AB 777 (Muratsuchi; D-Torrance)** updates the California tax code to include equipment used for spaceflight transportation within the business inventory exemption. The bill is consistent with the goals of CalChamber’s 2014 Solutions for a Strong California.

Innovation

California has long been the home of the world’s most advanced aeronautics and aerospace companies. Recently, this industry has seen innovation with the privatization of spaceflight transportation, which had historically been within the exclusive purview of the federal government.

This type of commercial space transportation currently delivers satellites into orbit and cargo to the international space station. This industry has the potential for future growth with the development of space tourism. To cap-

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**Bill Limits In-State Energy: Page 3**
**Labor Law Corner**

**Written Agreement Required for Employees Who Get Paid Commission**

I have employees who get paid commission. Am I required to have a written agreement or employment contract with those employees?

California Labor Code Section 2751 requires employers to provide commission agreements in writing specifying the method by which commissions are both computed and paid.

**Agreement Details**

The agreement must be signed by both the employer and the employee, and employees must receive a copy of the signed agreement. If the agreement expires and the employee continues working for the employer, the terms of the expired contract are presumed to remain in effect until a new agreement is in place. Be sure to specify that the new agreement supersedes prior agreements.

It is important to be very specific in the agreement as to how the commission is earned, whether it is earned at one time or as specific events occur, and what happens when the employee leaves before conditions precedent to earning the complete commission.

It also is important to address, in consultation with legal counsel, how commissions may (or may not) be affected when an employee is on a protected leave of absence, such as pregnancy disability leave or family medical leave.

**Business Requirements**

Each business will be different, so it is important to prepare the agreement with your particular business requirements in mind.

While the law requires you to have a written commission agreement, there is no legal requirement to have a written employment contract or agreement. The definition of “commissions” and the use of employment contracts or agreements can cause confusion.

Consult with legal counsel to determine the appropriate written agreements for your employees.

The Labor Law Helpline is a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com.

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**CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows**

More information: calchamber.com/events.

**Labor Law**

HR Boot Camp. CalChamber. May 1, Sacramento; June 10, Santa Clara. (800) 331-8877.

**Business Resources**

12th Annual Job and Resource Fair. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. April 17, Stockton. (916) 324-6508.

**International Trade**


World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast. Los Angeles Area Chamber. May 2, Los Angeles. (213) 580-7569.


The 15th Malaysia International Food and Beverage Trade Fair. Sphere Exhibits Malaysia Sdn Berhad and Mutia Sigma (M) Sdn Bhd. June 19–21, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Limit on In-State Energy Development Narrowly Passes Senate Committee

A Senate policy committee narrowly approved this week a California Chamber of Commerce-opposed “job killer” bill that significantly limits in-state energy development.

**SB 1132 (Mitchell; D-Los Angeles)** imposes a statewide moratorium on well stimulation treatments until the completion of a scientific study, thereby placing California businesses at a disadvantage, increasing fuel costs, impeding job growth and suppressing property, income and excise tax revenues.

**Existing Rules**

In opposing SB 1132, the CalChamber and other employer groups pointed out that a comprehensive regulatory framework for well stimulation treatments, including an expansive scientific study, already is in place due to legislation passed and signed into law last year, SB 4 (Pavley; D-Agoura Hills; Chapter 313).

The regulatory process for implementing SB 4 should be given adequate time to proceed without abrupt and substantial modifications such as those imposed by SB 1132, the CalChamber argued. SB 4 requires:
- the Secretary of Natural Resources to complete by January 1, 2015 an independent, comprehensive scientific study evaluating the hazards and risks that well stimulation treatments pose to natural resources and public, occupational, and environmental health and safety.
- the Natural Resources Agency to notify the Legislature on the progress of the study starting April 4, 2014 and every four months thereafter until the study is completed.

**Duplicative Approach**

SB 1132 proposes an unnecessary and in many ways duplicative approach to the scientific study currently required.

Perhaps more troublesome, it appears that the true intention of SB 1132 is to impose an indefinite moratorium on well stimulation treatments. To wit, SB 1132 allows any person who submitted public comments on the scientific study process or provided testimony at the hearing on the study to seek judicial review of the Governor’s findings within 90 days after the findings are issued.

The Governor’s findings, however, shall be considered final only when all pending legal challenges are resolved and the findings are affirmed based on “clear and convincing evidence.”

Put simply, it appears that resolving all legal challenges is not enough for the moratorium to be lifted under SB 1132, as the Governor’s findings also must be affirmed based on a rigorous legal standard typically applied in the context of civil and criminal trials.

Accordingly, SB 1132 rejects the notion that the adequacy of an independent review should be based on science and, in doing so, puts the fate of well stimulation treatments into the hands of the courts.

**Threat to Oil/Gas Supplies**

From a broader economic perspective, SB 1132 would unnecessarily and substantially threaten the state’s supplies of oil and natural gas, increasing business costs and harming California’s economy as a whole.

Economic recovery and growth require adequate supplies of reliable, affordable energy. By obstructing an important means of growing in-state production capability, SB 1132 will necessitate increased oil exports, raising the cost not only of fuel, but of manufacturing, agricultural operations, public transportation and all goods and services that are energy-dependent.

This, in turn, will place California businesses at a competitive disadvantage, impede job growth and suppress property, income and excise tax revenues.

This significant, untimely burden on California’s businesses and economy is unnecessary. Oil and gas production as a whole is heavily regulated and monitored, and well stimulation treatments, including hydraulic fracturing, have been used in California for decades with no reported incidents of harm to the environment or public health.

SB 1132 will not provide added public health or environmental protections, but it will increase business costs, hamper California’s economic recovery and deprive the state of much-needed fuel, jobs and tax revenues.

**Key Vote**

SB 1132 passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on April 8, 5-2:

**Ayes:** Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), Evans (D-Santa Rosa), Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), Monning (D-Carmel), Wolk (D-Davis).

**Noes:** Cannella (R-Ceres), Fuller (R-Bakersfield).

No vote recorded: Hueso (D-Logan Heights), Lara (D-Bell Gardens).

The bill will be considered next by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

**Staff Contact:** Anthony Samson

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**CalChamber Calendar**

*Legislative Briefing and Host Breakfast:* May 20–21, Sacramento

*International Forum:* May 20, Sacramento

*Water Committee:* May 20, Sacramento

*Fundraising Committee:* May 20, Sacramento

*Environmental Regulation Committee:* May 20, Sacramento

*Board of Directors:* May 21, Sacramento
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increased thereafter according to the Consumer Price Index.

Economic Development Barriers

• **AB 1897 (Hernández; D-West Covina) Contractor Liability** — Unfairly imposes liability on any contracting entity for the contractor’s wage and hour violations, lack of workers’ compensation coverage, and/or failure to remit employee contributions, despite the lack of any evidence that the contracting entity controlled the working conditions or wages of the contractor’s employees.

• **AB 2140 (Bloom; D-Santa Monica) Harms Economy** — Eliminates jobs and chills tourism in the San Diego region by eliminating performances of Orca at SeaWorld San Diego.

• **AB 2372 (Ammiano; D-San Francisco) Split Roll Change of Ownership** — Unfairly targets commercial property by reddefining “change of ownership” so that such property is more frequently reassessed, which will ultimately lead to higher property taxes that will be passed on to tenants, consumers, and potentially employees.

• **AB 2416 (Stone; D-Scotts Valley) Unproven Wage Liens** — Creates a dangerous and unfair precedent in the wage and hour arena by allowing employees to file liens on an employer’s real or personal property, or property where work was performed, based upon alleged yet unproven wage claims.

• **AB 2420 (Nazarian; D-Studio City) Significantly Limits In-State Energy Development** — Places California businesses at a disadvantage, increasing fuel costs, impeding job growth and suppressing property, income and excise tax revenues.

• **SB 1188 (Jackson; D-Santa Barbara) Unwarranted Expansion of Product Defect Litigation** — Significantly increases product defect litigation and associated claims by allowing consumers to pursue claims after the warranty has expired for “material” omissions regarding the product that are unrelated to any health and safety concerns.

• **SB 1372 (DeSaulnier; D-Concord) Increased Tax Rate** — Threatens to significantly increase the corporate tax rate on publicly held corporations and financial institutions up to 15% according to the wages paid to employees in the United States, and threatens to increase that rate by 50% thereafter, if the corporation or institution reduces its workforce in the United States and simultaneously increases its contractors.

• **SB 1381 (Evans; D-Santa Rosa) California-Only New Labeling Requirements and Increased Litigation** — Increases cost of food productions and increases frivolous litigation by forcing farmers and food companies to implement costly new labeling, packaging, distribution and recordkeeping for products sold in California and by including a private right of action, increases litigation on all entities in the supply chain if a product was not properly labeled.

2013 Job Killer Carry-Over Bills

Costly Workplace Mandates

• **SB 404 (Jackson; D-Santa Barbara) Expansion of Discrimination Litigation** — Makes it virtually impossible for employers to manage their employees and exposes them to a higher risk of litigation by expanding the Fair Employment and Housing Act to include a protected classification for any person who is, perceived to be, or associated with an individual who provides medical or supervisory care to a listed family member.

Economic Development Barriers

• **AB 52 (Gatto; D-Los Angeles) CEQA Consultation with Tribes** — Creates new opportunities for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) litigation by requiring lead agencies to engage in “meaningful consultation” with Native American tribes regarding land use projects that could have an adverse impact on a tribal cultural resource.

• **AB 1330 (J. A. Pérez; D-Los Angeles) New Double Penalties** — Discourages investment and expansion in some disadvantaged regions of the state by doubling most fines and penalties issued by the Air Resources Board (ARB), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Air Quality Management Districts (AQMDs) on facilities located there.

• **ACA 3 (Campos; D-San Jose) Lowers Vote Requirement for Tax Increases** — Adds complexity and uncertainty to the current tax structure and pressure to increase taxes on commercial, industrial and residential property owners by giving local governments new authority to enact special taxes, including parcel taxes, by lowering the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55%.

• **ACA 8 (Blumenfield; D-San Fernando Valley) Lowers Vote Requirement for Tax Increases** — Adds complexity and uncertainty to the current tax structure and pressure to increase taxes on commercial, industrial and residential property owners to finance local public safety, transportation, water and recreation infrastructure by lowering the vote threshold for bonded debt supported by property taxes from two-thirds to 55%.

• **SB 686 (Jackson; D-Santa Barbara) Safety Recalls** — Exposes car dealers to significant liability and precludes them from renting, leasing, loaning, or selling a car despite the lack of
CalChamber Releases 2014 Job Killer List

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actual knowledge that the car was subject to a recall, that may or may not pose any imminent harm to the consumer or renter.

• **SB 691 (Hancock; D-Berkeley)**
  Dramatically Increases Pollution Penalties — Dramatically increases existing strict-liability penalties for nuisance-based, non-vehicular air-quality violations without adequately defining what types and levels of pollution would trigger those penalties.

• **SCA 4 (Liu; D-La Cañada Flintridge)**
  Lowers Vote Requirement for Tax Increases — Adds complexity and uncertainty to the current tax structure and pressure to increase taxes on commercial, industrial and residential property owners by giving local governments new authority to enact special taxes, including parcel taxes, by lowering the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55%.

• **SCA 7 (Wolk; D-Davis)**
  Lowers Vote Requirement for Tax Increases — Adds complexity and uncertainty to the current tax structure and pressure to increase taxes on commercial, industrial and residential property owners by giving local governments new authority to enact special taxes, including parcel taxes, by lowering the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55%.

• **SCA 8 (Corbett; D-San Leandro)**
  Lowers Vote Requirement for Tax Increases — Adds complexity and uncertainty to the current tax structure and pressure to increase taxes on commercial, industrial and residential property owners by giving local governments new authority to enact special taxes, including parcel taxes, by decreasing the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55%.

• **SCA 9 (Corbett; D-San Leandro)**
  Lowers Vote Requirement for Tax Increases — Adds complexity and uncertainty to the current tax structure and pressure to increase taxes on commercial, industrial and residential property owners by giving local governments new authority to enact special taxes, including parcel taxes, by lowering the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55%.

History of ‘Job Killer’ Bill Vetoes

**Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.**
- 2013: 38 “job killer” bills identified, 1 sent to Governor, 1 signed;
- 2012: 32 “job killer” bills identified, 6 sent to Governor, 2 vetoed;
- 2011: 30 “job killer” bills identified, 5 sent to Governor, 4 vetoed;

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**
- 2010: 43 “job killer” bills identified, 12 sent to Governor, 10 vetoed;
- 2009: 33 “job killer” bills identified, 6 sent to Governor, 6 vetoed;
- 2008: 39 “job killer” bills identified, 10 sent to Governor, 9 vetoed;
- 2007: 30 “job killer” bills identified, 12 sent to Governor, 12 vetoed;
- 2006: 40 “job killer” bills identified, 11 sent to Governor, 9 vetoed;
- 2005: 45 “job killer” bills identified, 8 sent to Governor, 7 vetoed;
- 2004: 23 “job killer” bills identified, 10 sent to Governor, 10 vetoed;

**Governor Gray Davis**
- 2003: 53 “job killer” bills identified, 13 sent to Governor, 2 vetoed;
- 2002: 35 “job killer” bills identified, 17 sent to Governor, 5 vetoed;
- 2001: 12 “job killer” bills identified, 5 sent to Governor, 2 vetoed;
- 2000: No job killers identified. Of 4 bad bills identified at end of session, Governor Davis signs 2 and vetoes 2.
- 1999: 30 “job killer” bills identified, 9 sent to Governor, 3 vetoed;
- 1998: 64 “job killer” bills identified, 11 sent to Governor, 11 vetoed;
- 1997: 57 “job killer” bills identified, 9 sent to Governor, 9 vetoed;

**Governor Pete Wilson**
- 2006: 40 “job killer” bills identified, 11 sent to Governor, 11 vetoed.
- 2005: 45 “job killer” bills identified, 8 sent to Governor, 7 vetoed;

Bill Keeping State Competitive in Aerospace Moves to Senate Floor

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ture this growth, California needs to ensure its laws, including the tax code, keep pace with innovation.

**Inventory Exemption**

AB 777 codifies a recent Board of Equalization (BOE) legal opinion that recognizes propulsion systems—rockets used for spaceflight transportation—fit within the business inventory exemption in the tax code.

This issue stems from a recent decision by the Los Angeles County Assessor to tax propulsion systems as property that does not fit within the exemption.

In a well-reasoned opinion, the BOE found that these systems should qualify under the business inventory exemption when evaluated in the context of the policy that created the exemption and the heavily regulated nature of the spaceflight transportation industry.

Not only does the spaceflight transportation industry create high-pay manufacturing and engineering jobs for thousands of Californians; it draws billions in investment and, when space tourism begins, will attract millions in tourism revenue. The growth of this industry is poised not only to be a potential economic shot in the arm, but also a new phase of California’s innovative prowess.

**Key Vote**

AB 777 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 7, 7-0.

Ayes: De León (D-Los Angeles), T. Gaines (R-Rocklin), Hill (D-San Mateo), Lara (D-Bell Gardens), Padilla (D-Pacoima), Steinberg (D-Sacramento), Walters (R-Irvine).

Staff Contact: Jeremy Merz
Legislative Outlook

An update on the status of key legislation affecting businesses. Visit www.calchambervotes.com for more information, sample letters and updates on other legislation. Staff contacts listed below can be reached at (916) 444-6670. Address correspondence to legislators at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Be sure to include your company name and location on all correspondence.

Minimum Wage Hike Put on Hold in Senate Fiscal Committee

Legislation to increase the minimum wage even higher and link future increases to inflation was held this week by a Senate fiscal committee pending a review of the proposal’s fiscal impacts.

The California Chamber of Commerce opposed SB 935 (Leno; D-San Francisco) as a “job killer” bill that will overwhelm many businesses already struggling with the latest minimum wage increase and other cumulative costs imposed in California.

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. just signed AB 10 (Alejo; D-Salinas; Chapter 351) last year to increase the minimum wage to $10 an hour by 2015.

SB 935 increases the minimum wage to $13 an hour by 2017 and thereafter automatically indexes the minimum wage to inflation.

Putting future minimum wage increases on autopilot, as SB 935 proposes, has always been troubling to the business community because it fails to take into consideration other economic factors or cumulative costs to which employers may be subjected.

Employers already are facing significant cost increases over the next several years, including higher taxes under Proposition 30, increased workers’ compensation rates, loss of the federal unemployment insurance credit, increased energy costs, and increased costs associated with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

There will undoubtedly be other costs employers are struggling with in 2018 when SB 935 seeks to tie the minimum wage increase to inflation. These unknown costs, coupled with an unknown economy at that time or thereafter, create concern and uncertainty for businesses.

Staff Contact: Jennifer Barrera

‘Job Killer’ Bill Pulled Aside for Additional Study

A California Chamber of Commerce-opposed “job killer” bill that will harm tourism and the state’s economy was pulled aside for interim study by the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 8.

AB 2140 (Bloom; D-Santa Monica) eliminates jobs and chills tourism in the San Diego region by eliminating performances of Orca at SeaWorld San Diego.

The visitor industry in San Diego employs more than 165,000 San Diegans; visitors to San Diego spent more than $8 billion in the region in 2013; the economic impact of the visitor industry on the San Diego regional economy is more than $18.7 billion.

SeaWorld San Diego is one of the largest employers in the San Diego region, employing more than 4,500 employees during the peak season. AB 2140 would eliminate many of these part-time and seasonal jobs.

Moreover, SeaWorld San Diego is a driving force for the economic health of the region. SeaWorld San Diego pays $14 million in rent for the Mission Bay facility and is responsible for $5.2 million in property tax annually. AB 2140 will have a drastic impact on the revenue for local and county budgets, thereby affecting all San Diegans.

Given the still-fragile economic recovery, California needs to take all steps to promote the business climate and protect jobs in the state. AB 2140 will do just the opposite, harming not only SeaWorld San Diego, but the restaurants, hotels, small businesses, and employees of the region.

The bill was referred to interim study without a vote, but committee members acknowledged the economic ramifications of the bill and the need for a closer look at the details of what it seeks to accomplish.

Staff Contact: Marti Fisher
CalChamber Legislative Briefing to Include Rundown on Key Races

The California Chamber of Commerce will be giving a rundown on key contested legislative races for the June primary election at its legislative briefing on May 20 in Sacramento.

Inside Scoop

The briefing will give attendees the opportunity to get the inside scoop from CalChamber President and CEO Allan Zaremberg about the politics behind major issues affecting employers’ ability to stay competitive.

Also featured will be updates on CalChamber job creators and “job killers” and comments from longtime members of the Capitol Press Corps.

Lunch is included in registration for the briefing, set for 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Host Reception/Breakfast

In the evening following the briefing is the Sacramento Host Reception, a networking opportunity for business leaders from all industries in California to discuss key issues facing the state.

The reception is a prelude to the Sacramento Host Breakfast the following morning, May 21. The Host Breakfast provides a venue at which California’s top industry and government leaders can meet, socialize and discuss the contemporary issues facing businesses, the economy and government.

Traditionally, the Governor of California and the chair of the CalChamber Board of Directors speak on issues facing employers in California. Leaders from business, agriculture, the administration, education, the military and legislators from throughout the state are invited to join the discussion.

Registration

Registration for the briefing, Host Reception and Host Breakfast is $50. Space is limited. The registration deadline is May 9.

For more information or to register, visit www.calchamber.com/2014briefing-hostb.

Staff Contact: Danielle Fournier

New Coalition to Educate Public about Safe Oil Extraction Technologies


Unfortunately, activists opposed to meeting a substantial amount of California’s energy needs with in-state resources are spreading misleading information and advocating a ban on hydraulic fracturing.

Well-Paying Jobs

Keeping oil production in California helps the state achieve energy independence while producing tens of thousands of well-paying jobs, also creating revenue for the state to fund vital programs.

A California State University, Fresno study estimated that enhanced extraction of oil and gas in California would generate up to $6.7 billion in additional revenue for state and local governments, thereby helping fund classrooms, public safety and other vital programs and services.

Existing Stringent Rules

Under legislation signed last year by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. (SB 4; Pavley; D-Agoura Hills, Chapter 313), California established the most stringent hydraulic fracturing regulations in the country. SB 4 requires:

• An independent, science-based study of hydraulic fracturing;
• The development of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR);
• Mandatory public disclosure of the content of all chemicals used;
• Well integrity testing before and after fracturing;
• Regular testing of nearby drinking water sources;
• Prior notification of surrounding landowners.

The petroleum industry in California provides tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs and billions in state and local tax revenues and property taxes.

Future Jobs

According to economic professors at CSU Fresno, future development of the state’s Monterey oil and gas reserves through enhanced recovery could:

• Create up to 195,000 new high-paying jobs;
• Generate as much as $22 billion in personal income gains.

Californians already consume all the oil and gas generated in California. Demand also forces the state to import more than 60% of the oil California needs each year from outside the state.

Although growth in alternative energy sources will help meet some future demand, additional supply from within California is needed to meet current demand and to keep pace with population growth. California has the largest shale oil reserves in the country.

More Information

HR’s Best Friend: FREE HRWatchdog Mobile App

CalChamber’s new mobile app is a great companion when you’re on the go. That’s because HRWatchdog spotlights important changes to federal and California employment law, as well as HR trends and other news.

Our employment law experts explain legal developments in everyday language, including significant court decisions, regulatory actions and legislation that affect California employers.

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