



April 3, 2014

The Honorable Joan Buchanan
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2148
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 2235 (Buchanan): SUPPORT
Assembly Education Committee
Hearing Date: April 9, 2014

Dear Assembly Member Buchanan:

The California School Boards Association has reviewed your AB 2235 and has taken a position of support for the bill.

AB 2235 will place on the November 4, 2014 statewide general election the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2014, to become operative if approved by the voters. The bill also makes specific changes to the state's School Facility Program.

CSBA supports AB 2235 for several reasons. First, the state program has run out of project funding. Proposition 1D funds for the construction and modernization of K-12 school facilities projects have been exhausted since July and May, 2012, respectively. Since 2012, the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC), which administers the SFP under the direction of the SAB, has accepted new construction and modernization project applications but has stopped processing the applications pending new bond funds.

Second, despite declining enrollment in some districts, there is projected future pupil enrollment growth in many districts and we will need new schools to house those students. School districts also are working to rehabilitate aging school facilities to ensure that they are safe and updated. The OPSC estimates future need for K-12 new construction and modernization at over \$16 billion. The California Community Colleges has a need of \$3.2 billion in state bond funds every two years.

Finally, state school bond funds are not only critical and beneficial to schools but they are beneficial to the economy. The infrastructure dollars will generate thousands of construction-related jobs. Historically, state bonds have been matched by more than 2:1 with local funds, generating tens of thousands more jobs. According to the State Treasurer's Office, 116 local bonds were passed by school districts during the November 2012 election. Voters pass these local bonds expecting a match from state funds.

For these reasons CSBA is supportive of AB 2235. If you would like to discuss this bill further please contact me at (916) 447-8420.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Frost
CSBA Legislative Advocate

cc: Assembly Education Committee members