SEA Letter of Support for Assemblymembers (make sure to delete)

DATE

**RE: Help the Unemployed Start Their Own Businesses; Support AB 152**

Dear XX:

On behalf of our organization, ORGNAME located in ORGLOCATION I am writing to request your support to bring a Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program to California as outlined in AB 152, introduced by Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (D-Davis) in January 2013.

Under the SEA program, unemployed workers will be able to receive or maintain their unemployment insurance benefits while they start their own small businesses.

The federal government allocated $5.3 million for California to implement a SEA program. To receive the funds to operate SEA, the California legislature needs to pass AB152. Note that California has to apply for the money by June 30, 2013, so this bill is marked for urgency.

California has had double digit unemployment for more than three years. In this time of persistent high unemployment, we need to do everything we can to encourage job creation. We must recognize and embrace the fact that self-employment creates at least one job per start-up that is for the owner, and creates jobs for others over time.

The SEA program will generate

* 5,000 new businesses
* 13,000 new jobs, and
* 400 million in gross revenues.

California leaders have the opportunity to assist the unemployed to become self-employed, create jobs, and reduce the unemployment rolls – all at the same time.

For more information, see the attached fact sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Pickman, Communication Director of the California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity at (415) 992-4484 or hpickman@microbiz.org.

Sincerely,

YOURNAME

YOURTITLE

Cc: Honorable Mariko Yamada

 Claudia Viek, CAMEO