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March 6, 2009

TO: Members of the Legislature
FROM: Assistant Majority Leader Paul Krekorian
CO-AUTHOR REQUEST: AB 700 - The Creative Industries Revitalization Act

I invite you to join me as a co-author to my bill AB 700, which will help secure a stable revenue source for the California Arts Council (CAC). This bill will transfer 20% of the sales tax generated on arts related items (identified by the Board of Equalization) to a fund that would go directly to CAC for arts programs serving California.

California is in its sixth year spending three cents per capita from the General Fund on the arts, and it remains last in the nation for state spending on the arts. AB 700 will provide funding to invest in California's creative sector which contributes to the state's economy and its ability to compete in the global marketplace.

- The non-profit arts community, large and small, that the CAC has nurtured over the years is a feeder to California's very profitable creative industry that employs 500,891 individuals as of January 2008. (Dun & Bradstreet data)
- Non-profit arts organizations are a proven economic driver for California's economy, a \$5.4 billion industry that generates \$300 million in state and local taxes.
- Providing a designated funding stream for the CAC can help grow programs that help non-profit arts organizations and the artists that serve 37 million Californians and the millions of people who visit California every day.

The arts are vital to the quality of life that we are so very proud of in California. By providing a stable revenue source for the CAC and its programs, the arts can continue to be a significant contributor to California's economic recovery through tourism, jobs, social services and education outreach. AB 700 proposes a sound investment for arts in California.

I hope you will join me in creating more funding for the arts to revitalize our communities and enhance the quality of life for citizens.

AB 700 is sponsored by the California Arts Advocates. If you have any questions, please contact Josefina Ramirez at 319-2043.

Yes, I want to co-author AB 700!

Member Name

Member Signature

Please return this form to the Office of Assistant Majority Leader Krekorian, Capitol Room 4005 or FAX to 319-2143.