



Chair
Supervisor Liz Kniss
Executive Director
Jolena L. Voorhis

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September 12, 2011

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 646 (Atkins) – Local Public Employee Organizations: Impasse Procedures
REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Brown:

The Urban Counties Caucus (UCC), a coalition of California's most populous counties, is in opposition to AB 646 (Atkins), which is pending on your desk. This bill requires local public employee organizations to establish a fact finding panel to address a dispute with the employer if a mediator is unable to reach a settlement within 30 days.

This bill would impose mandatory fact finding under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA) which undermines a county's authority to establish local rules for resolving impasse and unnecessarily expands an existing reimbursable state mandate. Another problematic provision is the ability for the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) to appoint a third party mediator when an impasse is reached and the parties cannot agree upon a mediator. This third party may not be familiar with municipal financing and could put a county's finances at risk.

This bill could lead to significant delays in labor negotiations and result in additional costs to public employers at a time when counties are struggling to address budget shortfalls and maintain basic services for their residents. Many urban counties do not see the need for the bill and believe that they are working well with their unions to address the many complicated issues in this struggling economy.

For the above reasons, the Urban Counties Caucus urges you to **VETO** AB 646. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-7531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jolena L. Voorhis".

Jolena L. Voorhis
Executive Director

cc: Assemblymember Atkins
David Lanier, Governor's Office

Board of Directors: **Chair:** Supervisor Liz Kniss, Santa Clara County; **Vice Chair:** Supervisor Greg Cox, San Diego County **Treasurer:** Vinod Sharma, Finance Director, Santa Clara County **Members:** Supervisor Keith Carson, Alameda County; Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County; Supervisor Don Knabe, Los Angeles County; Supervisor John Moorlach, Orange County; Supervisor John Benoit, Riverside County; Supervisor Susan Peters, Sacramento County; Supervisor Gary Ovitt, San Bernardino County, Vacant, San Francisco County; Supervisor Carole Groom, San Mateo County; Supervisor Kathy Long, Ventura County