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May 27, 2022

The Honorable Dave Cortese, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment & Retirement
The Honorable Tom Umberg, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 983 (Kalra) - OPPOSE

Dear Senators Cortese and Umberg:

On behalf of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce—representing 600 local businesses in Santa Monica—we write to oppose AB 983, flawed and risky legislation that will put California jobs and our state's leadership in music at risk.

Music is a cornerstone of [California's economy](#), adding \$40 billion to our GDP every year and supporting over 430,000 jobs in our state. The creative arts and entertainment are a vital part of our local economy as well. Universal Music Group, for example, is the fifth largest employer in Santa Monica, with 1,400 employees.

But AB 983 would jeopardize these jobs by destabilizing recording agreements and driving down advances and royalties for diverse voices and emerging acts. It would hang a cloud of uncertainty over every recording agreement in the state, including both original contracts and extensions and renegotiations prized by artists—reducing their value and undercutting long-term label investment in the development and promotion of new acts in our state.

Sponsors argue the bill is needed to end a loophole that supposedly exempts record deals from the state's Seven Year Rule for personal services contract. But that is false. There is no exemption. Today under current law recording agreements are limited to seven years and no artist can be forced to remain under contract any longer.

What the bill actually does is limit a record company's ability to recover its losses if an artist fails to deliver promised recordings during the seven year period. This would breach the basic principle that both sides should hold up their end of a bargain.

We urge Senators to stand up for California's music economy and the next generation of artists trying to get signed and build careers in our state.

Please oppose AB 983.

Board Members, Cont.

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Kaiser Permanente



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Rudy Flores
*Santa Monica Police
Officers Association*

Sincerely,

CC:
Honorable Members, Senate Comm. on Labor, Pub. Employ. &
Retirement
Honorable Members, Senate Judiciary Comm.
Senate Republican Caucus

Sincerely,

Matt Stauffer
Interim CEO

Michael Ricks
2021-22 Board Chair

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