

2018 BizFed Leadership Roundtable Series Senator Cathleen Galgiani (SD5)

LARCHMONT VILLAGE – May 18, 2018



Cerrell Associates, Inc. hosted the tenth convening of the BizFed Leadership Roundtable Series. Hal Dash welcomed BizFed members and California Senate Agriculture Committee Chair, Senator Cathleen Galgiani as our special guest of the Roundtable Series. She was first elected to the Legislature from the 17th Assembly

District in 2006 and served through 2012. Galgiani was elected to the 5th Senate District in 2012 and re-elected in 2016. Senator Galgiani recounted how the budget battles, infrastructure needs, droughts, education and other issues during her legislative tenure have shaped the ways in which she approaches legislative proposals today. Maybe is the “former staffer in her” when she says that “I learned to really know the bills that come before



me and not rely totally on staff”.



Budget cutbacks in 1996 to the Cal Fire budget were never reinstated, she said. During the budget wars of the last decade, funds for mutual aid and firefighting were drastically cut. Cal Fire stated that about 30% of requests for mutual aid were unmet. About 15% of Californians live in fire areas. The recent wildfires, even in the off season, are concerning to Galgiani. As wildfires are likely to be year round occurrences and a permanent fire-fighting workforce is needed, replenishing this fund becomes even more important.

Sen. Galgiani is a strong supporter of SB1 and feels that Caltrans needs to have more signage on transportation projects under construction for Californians to make the connection between SB1 funding and road improvements. At a time when federal transportation funding is asking applicants to increase their % match, funds derived from SB1 are ever more important, Galgiani commented.

The topic of the initiative to repeal Costa-Hawkins doesn't have Galgiani's support. She is opposed to rent control and recognizes the role of CEQA in development proposals that becomes an obstacle at times to affordable housing and other infrastructure projects.





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The increased need to expedite these projects call for continuing her efforts of the past two years to streamline CEQA.

Galgiani has been supportive of the business community in different ways. She successfully authored SB605 which revises, beginning January 1, 2019, the definition of "small business" and "microbusiness" for purposes of the Small Business Procurement and Contract Act (Act) by increasing the dollar amount threshold for a small business and microbusiness and requires those dollar amounts to be adjusted to reflect changes in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) biennially.



The highly skilled and trained women of the construction industry contribute greatly to California's infrastructure and economy. However, despite efforts to recruit women into the construction industry, women make up just 3% of California's total construction workforce and only 2.4% of the apprentices enrolled in the apprenticeship system. Galgiani introduced SB1223 this year to address the efforts to recruit more women into the construction industry with policies that promote retention.

Galgiani has been an advocate for an educated work force. She played key roles in securing funding for the development of UC Merced, the 10th campus of the University of California system and urged the UC officials to begin planning for its School of Medicine. UC Merced, the only UC located in the Central Valley, has the highest number of students, among the UC campuses, that are the first in their families to attend college.

Participants attending the Roundtable: Sen. Roy Ashburn (Ret.), Hal Dash, Ted Green, Lara Larramendi, Michael Millman, Hilary Norton, Steve Samuelian, Elizabeth Shapiro and Samantha Waterman.

