**The Honorable Senator William Dodd**

Senate District 3

Chair, Senate Committee on Government Organization

1020 N Street, Room 584

Sacramento, California 95814

March 23, 2022

RE: Senate Bill 1452

Dear Senator Dodd:

The El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 1452. As El Dorado Hills continues to grow from 18,000 residents in 2000 to over 50,000 today, we have heard numerous concerns from the restaurant and spirits industry on the limited numbers of certain liquor licenses. El Dorado County’s population growth is similar to ours, with 157,136 in 2000 to 191,185 in 2020. With that, the secondary market has been priced at $250,000, which is next to impossible for small businesses to purchase.

Consider that when the State of California issues a license (rare) to a business within the County, it costs that restaurant only $15,000. In order to better serve the community to balance food and beverage needs, generate more competitive employment opportunities and business sustainability, the necessity of these licenses is imperative for success. Select areas of El Dorado County, where population growth exists, lack sufficient inventory and availability of liquor licenses. As a result, businesses move to another County and terminate operations here. In some cases, businesses never begin in El Dorado County due to these prohibitive circumstances. Furthermore, residents who live in El Dorado County often drive to the County of Sacramento because of choice and availability, which in turn creates more traffic and congestion on our highways and deprives El Dorado County of its tax revenue as well.

We encourage and expect a vote in support for SB 1452. While small in nature, the impact of allowing choices in the community are truly appreciated and provide opportunities for economic growth.

Respectfully,

Debbie Manning

President/CEO

El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce

Cc  **Senator Brian Dahle**