SONOMA COUNTY
WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD

Ananda Sweet
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber
Chair

Katie Greaves
Director
Ph (707) 565-8501
Fax (707) 565-8502

April 1, 2020

Ms. Susan Gorin
Chair, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Dr., Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 9403

RE: Letter of Support for EDB Business Services Program Manager

Dear Chair Gorin:

I am writing in support of the creation of a new Business Services Program Manager at the Economic Development Board (EDB). The EDB and the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) have a long and successful history of working in concert to ensure inspiring and fulfilling career paths are available to local job seekers, and that local businesses understand the wealth of resources available to help the find and train employees. The addition of this position would allow our two organizations to engage directly with local business on their workforce needs, better understand needs, leverage existing programs, and inform the creation of new programming.

Because we believe that employer engagement is a critical link in the workforce training system, the WIB recently amended its long standing MOU with the EDB to fund this position. A similar position once existed at the EDB, and helped to create popular customized training options, utilized funding to offset training costs for employers, and create career opportunities for individuals who had previously faced employment barriers. As we now face uncertain economic times, this level of service and engagement will become even more critical than it was in the past.

Thank you for your consideration of this item.

Sincerely,

Katie Greaves
Director