



www.commoncause.org/ca

Los Angeles ♦ Sacramento ♦ San Diego ♦ San Francisco

March 11, 2011

The Honorable Mike Gatto
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043

RE: AB 65 - SUPPORT

To Assemblymember Gatto,

We are pleased to support AB 65, your bill to include the top five contributors to campaign committees in the statewide ballot pamphlet sent to voters before an election.

California Common Cause has worked very hard to educate voters about the money influencing our elections. When voters are armed with information about the Big Money spent on elections, they demand to know what that money buys and how it will affect public policy and spending priorities. Voters have demanded limits on the amount of money corporate, union and other special interests have on our elections, but these protections are being attacked. AB 65 gives us another tool to fight back.

AB 65 adds information about the largest donors to political campaigns to the ballot pamphlet. A paper ballot pamphlet is sent to every voter 110 days before Election Day that contains basic information about who is running for what race, what measures will appear on the ballot, arguments in support and opposition, impartial analysis of the impact measures may have on California and other useful information. Voters also want to know who the actors are behind the scenes during election season. Opening the statewide ballot pamphlet to find the names of the people, companies, unions and organizations who have given the most to the candidate or ballot measure campaign will empower voters to make ballot box decisions that better fit their interests.

Given the 110 day cut off for the inclusion of campaign finance information in the paper ballot pamphlet, we encourage you to add language to AB 65 that:

- 1) **Directs the Secretary of State to update the online version of the pamphlet every 30 days if the top five donors change. An updated top five donor list could also be included in another prominent location on the website where voters find the pamphlet.**
- 2) **Directs the Secretary of State to include the website where voters will find updated top five donor information in the ballot pamphlet.**

We hope that you will call on our office if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Katie Fleming
Policy Advocate

cc: Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting