VICA Visits the Nation's Capitol for Access DC

"No two countries in the world have a deeper and more meaningful relationship than the U.S. and Canada...400,000 jobs in Los Angeles County exist because of trade with Canada."

- Gavin Nardocchio-Jones, Consul, Political and Public Affairs, Consulate General of Canada in Los Angeles

This week, VICA members and President Stuart Waldman were in Washington, D.C. on the annual ACCESS DC advocacy trip. Local officials, including Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Los Angeles City Councilmembers Mitch Englander and Curren Price were also among the attendees. Senator Dianne Feinstein welcomed the delegation during the opening breakfast. At a separate reception with California's Congressional Delegation, Senator Kamala Harris provided the keynote remarks. Members of the VICA team met with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representatives Tony Cárdenas, Brad Sherman, and Nanette Barragán, to name a few. The team also had meetings at the White House, the FAA, and Departments of Treasury, Transportation, Commerce, and Customs and Border Protection. The advocacy focus was on urging Congress and the Administration to establish a long-term plan for economic growth through transportation, trade, and education. VICA also advocated for improving water supply reliability, implementing business-friendly healthcare policies, funding for housing programs, and maximizing domestic energy supplies. ACCESS DC is the premier legislative advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. for Los Angeles businesses. It is organized in collaboration with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and...
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The VICA Government Handbook is the San Fernando Valley and the Greater Los Angeles area's go-to guide for information about federal, state and local government officials and elected leaders. It is frequently used from Los Angeles to Sacramento and even in Washington, D.C.

This year's edition features all the information you've come to expect for the Government Handbook, including detailed maps of City Council, Legislative and Congressional districts.

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Voice Your Opposition on Attempt to Bypass LA County Voters

VICA opposes Senate Constitutional Amendment 12 (Mendoza), which would place an item on the ballot to increase the number of supervisors to seven and establish the position of an elected executive officer in Los Angeles County. Similar measures have been overwhelmingly rejected by voters in Los Angeles County on four separate occasions over the last fifty years. This bill bypasses the voters it would actually affect and will instead place the question on a statewide ballot. VICA is concerned that this measure will lead to an increased bureaucracy and burden on business without providing any economic or other type of benefit. There is no evidence to suggest that increasing the membership of the Board of Supervisors or having an elected executive will increase the efficacy, quality of service, or diversity of County governance. This proposal is a highly inappropriate attempt to bypass the will of Los Angeles County voters and impose a larger bureaucracy on our local residents and businesses.

Click here to oppose SCA 12.
Hot Issues

Budget
On Thursday, Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti signed the City's 2017-18 budget. The budget funds aggressive work to fight homelessness, fix streets and sidewalks, and expand the Mayor's Vision Zero initiative. The signing capped a month-long series of City Council hearings, which led to broad consensus around the budget finalized by the Mayor.

Manufacturing
Aerojet Rocketdyne has been chosen to supply the main propulsion system for an experimental spaceplane being developed by Boeing Co and the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Engineering work on the engines for the XS-1 program will be done at Aerojet's facility in Chatsworth.

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Voice Your Support for Safe, Self-Driving Cars

VICA strongly supports SB 145, which would eliminate the 180-day waiting period and legislative notification requirement for each application for operation of a driverless autonomous vehicle on public roads.

Current law does not specify what the Legislature should do, if anything, during the 180-day waiting period. The Legislature has other means for oversight of self-driving cars that do not involve waiting periods.
Healthcare
According to a state financial analysis released on Monday, it would cost $400 billion to remake California's health insurance marketplace and create a publicly funded universal health care system. California would have to find an additional $200 billion per year, including in new tax revenues, to create a single-payer system.

Employment
According to state figures released last Friday, L.A. County's unemployment rate fell to another new low of 4.5 percent in April, but in a sign that the local economy is close to full employment, employers in the county reversed their hiring trends and shed a net 7,000 jobs last month.

Transportation
On Thursday, the Metro board voted unanimously to withdraw its support and funding for the 710 Freeway tunnel. Instead, the board voted to spend $700 million on a range of transportation fixes to ease congestion and other problems arising from traffic spilling onto the streets of Alhambra at the 710's abrupt northern terminus.

Click here to take action on SB 145.

Canadian Consul Speaks at VICA Meeting

Jeffery Daar (Daar & Newman), Consul for Political and Public Affairs in the Consulate General of Canada in Los Angeles Gavin Nardocchio-Jones and Claudette Moody (WSP USA) at VICA's International Trade Committee meeting.

On Tuesday, Gavin Nardocchio-Jones Consul joined VICA's International Trade Committee meeting to discuss NAFTA and California's relationship with Canada. Gavin serves as Consul for Political and Public Affairs in the Consulate General of Canada in Los Angeles. The wide-ranging discussion included comments on border control cooperation between NAFTA countries to expedite trade, the impact of Canadian imports and exports on California, and the balance of trade. The meeting was chaired by Jeffery Daar (Daar & Newman). Special thanks to WSP USA for presenting the meeting.

Committee Report

Aviation Committee (5/24)
Hosted by Aerolease/Aeroplex

- Mark Dierking, Community Relations Manager for Metro, provided an update on the LAX Airport Metro Connector.
- Dr. Somjita Mitra, Senior Economist at the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, gave a presentation on the regional impact of the closure of Santa Monica Airport.
- Flora Margheritis, Airport Manager at Van Nuys Airport, provided an update on airport operations.
- The Committee recommended to adopt guiding principles on potential legislation to reform the nation's air traffic control system.

Member Messages:
Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!

VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for $50 per week or $175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional $5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.

ABOUT VICA
Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com.

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