

GREATER CONCORD

Chamber of Commerce

For Immediate Release

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The Concord Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has endorsed Measure D, the \$99 a year parcel tax initiative the Mt. Diablo school district has placed on the May 19 ballot. The endorsement does more than voice support from the business community for local schools. It reflects the first-hand experience many Chamber members have had, and continue to have, in those schools. They work closely with students and alongside teachers through programs such as Kids And the Power Of Work (KAPOW) and Business and Educators Shadowing for Tomorrow (BEST).

This involvement in students' education is based on the Chamber's belief that good, effective schools are essential to the community's well-being and promotes stable property value. Good schools produce graduates who are ready to enter the world of work or higher education and who become the educated and skilled workforce a healthy business community depends upon. Working with students and teachers at all grade levels, Chamber members are seeing the unsettling effect the state budget crisis is having on the educational program in Contra Costa County, and in Mt. Diablo in particular. Unlike surrounding public school districts, MDUSD does not yet have a program-focused parcel tax, an ongoing source of local revenue that gives some needed stability to students' education.

The Concord Chamber and the Mt. Diablo school district have long had a strong and productive partnership, working together to see that our students' receive meaningful and relevant classroom instruction. Student programs are now in jeopardy. The Chamber's Board of Directors believes that by supporting Measure D and thus committing \$99 a year to those programs in Mt. Diablo, the community at large can make sure they remain in our children's schools and classrooms.

The Concord Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors also voted to oppose Propositions 1A through 1E and to support Proposition 1F. For more information, contact Ellen Williams, Chair of the Board, Concord Chamber of Commerce: (925) 685-1181.

The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce is the premier chamber in Contra Costa County. Chartered in 1937, its mission is to foster a climate in which their members can operate more successfully realizing the benefits of increased economic activity and community involvement. Key member committees include the Business Education, Government/Economic Policy, Green Business, Non-Profit, Women's Networking and Ambassadors.

Details about specific programs that are offered to members and the general public are available at the organization's web site, www.concordchamber.com, or by calling their offices at (925) 685-1181.