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June 18, 2013

The Honorable Carol Liu
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 173 (Weber) as Amended, May 23, 2013
Scheduled for Hearing on June 19, 2013, Senate Education Committee
Position: Support

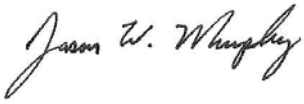
Dear Senator Liu:

The University of California (UC) has reviewed AB 173 and is pleased to support this bill. AB 173 would allow UC to award contracts for goods, services or information technology with a value between $100,000 and $250,000 to a certified small business, micro business, or disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE) provided that UC obtains at least two price quotes from these businesses. Existing law, the Small Business Procurement and Contract Act, already provides similar contracting authority to state agencies and UC appreciates Assemblymember Weber's efforts to extend it to California public higher education institutions.

UC believes that for some of its contracts with an estimated value between $100,000 and $250,000 the additional contracting flexibility provided by AB 173 will help to reduce the administrative costs and burdens associated with managing a competitive bid process. Further, UC has had an institutional commitment to small businesses over the years and each campus utilizes a broad range of outreach activities designed to improve UC's access to qualified small business suppliers and DVBE suppliers. UC believes that the provisions of AB 173 provide a useful alternative to existing competitive bidding contract requirements that may help the University when working with certified small, micro, and DVBE businesses throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration of the University's views. Should you have any questions on the University's position on AB 173, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-5584.

Sincerely,



Jason Murphy
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Shirley Weber
Vice Chair and Members, Senate Education Committee
President Mark G. Yudof
Provost Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez