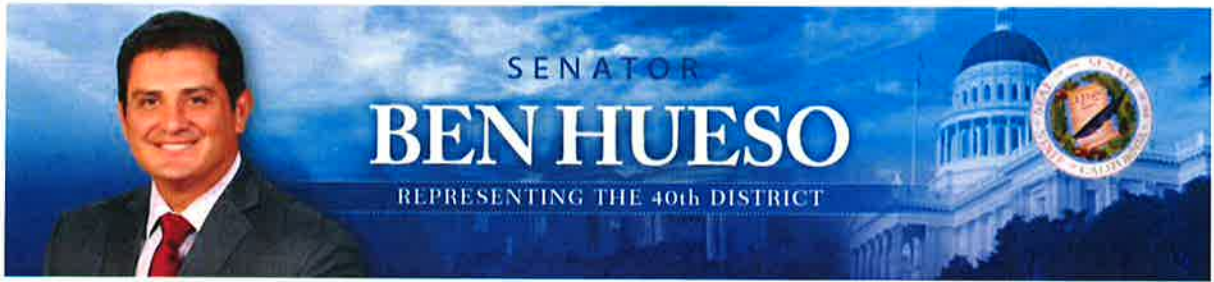


DATE SUBMITTED 9/27/2019
 SUBMITTED BY CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
 DATE ACTION REQUIRED 10/02/2019

COUNCIL ACTION (X)
 PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED ()
 RESOLUTION ()
 ORDINANCE 1ST READING ()
 ORDINANCE 2ND READING ()
 CITY CLERK'S INITIALS JS

**IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL
 AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION: COMMISSION ON CALIFORNIA-MEXICO AFFAIRS 1. SUPPORT SB 558 TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON CALIFORNIA – MEXICO AFFAIRS.	
DEPARTMENT INVOLVED: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE	
BACKGROUND/SUMMARY: The City of Imperial City Manager's Office has received a request from Senator Ben Hueso for the City Council to offer their support of Senate Bill 558. SB 558 would establish the Commission on California-Mexico Affairs, consisting of seventeen members. The bill tasks the commission with improving collaboration between California and Mexico to address matters of particular concern to California. The commission would further this mission by holding hearings, cooperating with other state agencies, appointing advisers or advisory committees and advising the state on matters of particular importance regarding our border and close proximity with Mexico.	
FISCAL IMPACT: None	FINANCE INITIALS <u>JS</u>
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff has no recommendation but asks for Council's review and consideration on this matter.	DEPT. INITIALS <u>al</u>
MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: N/A	CITY MANAGER'S INITIALS <u>JS</u>
MOTION:	
SECONDED: AYES: NAYES: ABSENT:	APPROVED () REJECTED () DISAPPROVED () DEFERRED () REFERRED TO:



SB 558 – Commission on California-Mexico Affairs

Summary

SB 558 would establish the Commission on California-Mexico Affairs, consisting of seventeen members. The bill tasks the commission with improving collaboration between California and Mexico to address matters of particular concern to California. The commission would further this mission by holding hearings, cooperating with other state agencies, appointing advisers or advisory committees and advising the state on matters of particular importance regarding our border and close proximity with Mexico.

Background

Existing law established an Office of California-Mexico Affairs in the Trade and Commerce Agency, which is no longer in existence. Understanding the need for an organizing entity to coordinate interagency cooperation, an independent council was formed through AB 3021 (Nunez, 2006). Formally known as the Border Relations Council, this entity was tasked with coordinating cross-border programs, initiatives, projects and partnerships within California state agencies.

Why this bill is needed

California shares over 140 miles of our Southern border with Mexico and the flow of goods and people across the border have been critical to California's success as the fifth largest economy in the world. Our close proximity and shared values have given rise to one of the strongest economic, cultural, and social regions in the world. Although our shared border continues to present unique challenges and opportunities, the state has been unable to create a strategic vision to address these challenges and seize these opportunities. The continued rhetoric about building walls and shutting down our border only creates more barriers to achieve this. California must take action to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the people of California.

By establishing a state commission, we can ensure that we are doing so by taking tangible steps to address important matters of concern to Californians resulting from our shared border and close proximity with Mexico. These include:

- Understanding the scope of the issue of binational students – students who attend schools on both sides of the U.S. Mexico border.
- Developing California's sister state relationships. These include Baja California Norte, Baja California Sur, Jalisco, Nayarit, and Queretaro.
- Addressing continued pollution of state waters at the Tijuana River Valley and Calexico New River.
- Addressing poor air quality at the border
- Recommendations as to how the state should address migrants and refugees at the border.
- Developing and supporting a cross-border work force
- Improving trade corridors and lowering border wait times

Staff Contact

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Capitol Office: (916) 651 – 4040

Support

Alliance San Diego

Cien Amigos

Comité Civico Del Valle

La Cooperativa Campesina de California

San Diego – Tijuana Smart Border Coalition

World Wide Environmental Products

Opposition

None on file

October 2, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Legislative Unit

RE: SB 558 (Hueso) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Imperial, I am writing to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill (SB) 558 (Hueso), which would establish the Commission on California-Mexico Affairs.

California shares over 140 miles of our Southern border with Mexico. The flow of goods and people across the border have been critical to California's success as the fifth largest economy in the world. The region from Los Angeles through Tijuana, a region designated as La-san-ti (Los Angeles, San Diego, Tijuana), can be considered the 11th largest economy in the world. This region boasts an economy larger than that of Russia and Spain and drives the economies of California, The United States, and Mexico. Lasanti is indicative of the interdependent nature of the California-Mexico relationship and the enormous potential that comes with growing a truly binational economy. This economic impact is not felt solely in the border region; a growing binational economy has enormous implications across the state.

In 2018, California's exports to Mexico totaled \$30.7 billion. Mexico purchases 17 percent of all California exports – making it the state's No. 1 export market – and trade with Mexico supports 566,000 jobs in the state. However, the benefits of a partnership with Mexico are not yet fully realized. We are far behind other states, especially other border states. Texas' exports to Mexico in 2017 outdid ours by more than \$70 billion.

Although our shared border continues to present unique challenges and opportunities, the lack of consistent dialogue between California and Mexico has made it difficult to develop a strategic plan that address regional challenges. Additionally, the continued rhetoric from the federal government about

building walls and shutting down our border only creates more barriers to achieve this. California must take action to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the people of California. SB 558 seeks to accomplish this by developing a binational commission that would seek tangible steps to help us realize the full set of benefits that come with a strong California-Mexico partnership. By “deputizing” members of the public into commissioner roles, we can lead these ongoing conversations, create a strategy for California-Mexico relations and make community-driven policy recommendations.

California has a unique opportunity to foster productive conversations with Mexico and to find new and innovative ways to lead domestically and internationally. By doing so, California can advance its interests, increase its economic competitiveness, and protect the welfare of its citizens. For the above reasons, the City of Imperial supports SB 558 (Hueso). We understand the value of a relationship between California and Mexico and wish to see it preserved and strengthened. Please feel free to contact me at (760) 355-4373 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the position of our City.

Sincerely,

Robert Amparano, Mayor
City of Imperial

Cc: Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District
Anthony Williams
Rachel Wagoner
Darrell Pechtl, Mayor Pro-Tem
Geoff Dale, Councilmember
Karin Eugenio, Councilmember
James Tucker, Councilmember