



STATE FARM

FARMERS

LIBERTY MUTUAL GROUP

PROGRESSIVE

ALLSTATE

MERCURY

NAMIC

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** May 18, 2011

**To:** The Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chair  
The Honorable Diane L. Harkey, Vice Chair  
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

**From:** Rex D. Frazier, President  
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President  
Kimberley Dellinger Dunn, General Counsel  
Manolo P. Platin, Legislative Advocate

**Re:** AB 624 (Perez J): California Organized Investment Network  
As Amended, March 31, 2011

**Assembly Appropriations Committee – Hearing May 18, 2011  
PIFC Position: Support, if Amended**

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC), representing six of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Group, Progressive, Allstate and Mercury) and one national trade association (National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies) who collectively write a majority of the personal line auto and home insurance in California, would **support, if amended, AB 624 by Speaker Pérez.**

AB 624 would extend to January 1, 2017, the California Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Tax Credit and Certification Program which was initiated in 1997 and has been administered by the California Organized Investment Network (COIN), within the California Department of Insurance. The bill would also require the Insurance Commissioner to create a COIN Advisory Board to provide recommendations on how to increase insurer investments in community development projects.

While PIFC is supportive of the continuation of the tax credit, we have concerns with the statutory requirement and fiscal impact of the COIN Advisory Board. The Commissioner has and continues to have the ability to convene an Advisory Board. Nothing has occurred with the Commissioner's existing authority that would prevent him from selecting an Advisory Board today. With the Department already requesting personnel increases from the Legislature, is it appropriate to create an additional entity that would require new funding?

CDFIs are mission-driven community organizations, separate from government control, and dedicated to providing financial products and services to low-income communities underserved by traditional financial markets. PIFC member companies are actively involved in efforts to encourage and facilitate appropriate insurer investments in California community projects. The CDFI Tax Credit and Certification Program has proven to be a useful tool for stimulating investment in California communities by providing an incentive for insurers, other financial institutions and individuals to deposit funds in CDFIs. In turn, these funds have been used to assist persons in low income communities to secure financing for economic development and affordable housing.

For the foregoing reasons, **PIFC supports, if amended, AB 624** and urges your **"aye"** vote. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Michael A. Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Speaker John A. Pérez, Author  
Julie Salley-Gray, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Anthony Archie, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Gareth Elliott, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor  
Randall Ward, Director, Office of the Insurance Advisor