



1020 "O" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

March 12, 2014

Senator Lou Correa
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1009 (Liu)


Dear Senator Correa,

I write on behalf of the Society of California Archivists in support of SB 1009. This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to use professional archival practices to appraise and manage the records of former Governors to determine whether all portions of the records are appropriate for permanent preservation in the State Archives.

The California Public Records Act states that, when a Governor leaves office, he or she is required to transfer all public records in his or her custody or control to the State Archives. However, the law does not address the use of professional practices to appraise and manage the records once they are transferred. Consequently, the State Archives has continued to hold all the voluminous materials transferred from the Governor's Office for the last three governors, even when some of those records have no enduring value. Good record keeping requires diligent housekeeping in the form of assessment, appraisal, and identification of material of historical importance. Archivists are trained in this appraisal and in all the retention issues pertaining to records of the State.

SB 1009 would permit the Secretary of State to protect and manage records from California's Governors appropriately and efficiently, in accordance with professional archival practices already applicable to the records of other state agencies. The Society of California Archivists, a non-profit statewide professional organization with a membership of more than 500 archivists and records managers, recognizes the need for applying professional practices and standards to archival records and we urge your support of SB 1009.

Sincerely,



James A. Eason
President, Society of California Archivists

cc: Nancy Lenoil, Director, Archives Division, and State Archivist, California State Archives