



James H. Roberts
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August 16, 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, California State Assembly
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

I don't have to tell you these are tough times. Our stalled economic recovery has forced painful cuts to vital services – and the threat of deeper cuts continues to grow. As President and CEO of Granite Construction, Incorporated, one of the largest civil contractors and construction materials producers in California, I can relate to the tough choices you have had to make.

A very important initiative for both the State of California and Granite is the Liberty Quarry project located on the Riverside and San Diego County border. It has come to our attention that an eleventh-hour bill has been drafted to kill Liberty Quarry and the benefits it will bring to California.

Sought by the Pechanga Band of Mission Indians, AB 742 is being drafted to change the rules for how our project is approved, by wresting control of this project away from local government. This news certainly came as a disappointment to me.

Liberty Quarry, which has been six years in the making, is expected to generate 277 new direct and indirect jobs and \$300 million in new tax revenue. It is currently under environmental review by the County of Riverside and is expected to go before their Board of Supervisors by the end of this year. Caltrans and the state Department of Conservation are on record supporting the need for more projects like Liberty Quarry. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has stated "this project could become a leader in the industry for its commitment to reducing air quality and health impacts."

Granite holds the third-oldest contractor's license in the state and has been doing business in California since 1922. We employ more than 1,000 Californians, and we have helped build California's infrastructure, from the first roads in Yosemite National Park to major freeways across the state. Granite has received dozens of awards for environmental excellence, sustainability and construction quality. We have been named one of America's Top Companies by *Forbes*, and *Fortune* has added Granite to its list of The 100 Best Companies to Work For. Earlier this year, our strong value on corporate responsibility led the Ethisphere Institute to honor Granite as one of World's Most Ethical Companies for the second year in a row.

Passing a bill that changes land-use jurisdiction for a project mid-course would set a dangerous precedent and send a bad message to businesses in California. I strongly urge you to oppose AB 742.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. Roberts".

James H. Roberts
President and Chief Executive Officer
Granite Construction, Inc.

cc: Gareth Elliott, Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown