Date:

Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas

Revenue and Taxation Committee, California State Assembly

State Capitol, Room 2176

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 624 Robotics Club Tax Credit (Maienschein) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Ridley-Thomas,

On behalf of , I urge your support of AB 624, which would provide funding through citizen and state support and encourage more donors to contribute to students’ interest in STEM and robotics. Jobs within the STEM field represent a large amount of job growth throughout California and the U.S. Despite this growth of job availability, only approximately 40% of men and 28% of women attain their undergraduate degree in STEM majors. Furthermore, by 2018 jobs in the STEM field are to grow 17% compared to non-STEM jobs projected growth of 9%. The tax credit would give a major incentive to philanthropists that support students’ interest in STEM.

By supporting robotics clubs who participate in robotics competitions across the state, students are exposed to different aspects of STEM and may be encouraged to major in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics in a higher education program. Additionally these clubs teach valuable skills that can be applied to whichever profession students choose such as teamwork, leadership, marketing, public relations, fundraising, and entrepreneurship

Encouraging donations through tax credits, will help clubs and schools provide students access to robotics programs that support and embolden them to strive for a profession in these areas.

I support AB 624 and urge your ‘aye’ vote.

Sincerely,

cc: Members of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

Nadra Mamou, Office of Assemblymember Brian Maienschein (Author)