

# Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy

## Study Tour of the Silicon Valley

On Tuesday, September 29, 2015, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy (JEDE) is hosting the first in a series of study tours focused on business development needs of information technology (IT) firms. The purpose of this line of inquiry is to determine what actions the state can reasonably take to address the economic and workforce challenges faced by IT companies in California.

Among other issues, the Chair and other participants will be engaging with information technology executives on matters related to JEDE's areas of policy oversight, including business development, international trade, permit assistance, infrastructure development, innovation-based manufacturing, and business attraction and retention. General public policy questions the JEDE Committee is interested in addressing include:

1. What actions can the state take to better support IT business start-ups, expansions, and competitiveness?
  - a. As mature and successful company, what have been some of the key factors for expanding facilities in California?
  - b. Have there been challenges in starting or expanding the business? Who or what helped to resolve those issues?
  - c. What actions is the firm taking to address environmental, social, and corporate governance issues including conflict minerals?
  - d. Does the firm use small business vendors for direct services or as part of its supply chain? Have you seen any difference since the recession in the ability of these businesses to meet your firm's needs?
  - e. Do you see a role for the state in strengthening small businesses through technical assistance or capital access programs?
2. How can the state support the greater integration of information technology products in K-12 systems serving historically underserved communities?
  - a. What impediments do you see in expanding access of IT in K-12 schools?
  - b. What initiatives have your company implemented or participated in that expand or enhance information technologies in K-12 school systems?
  - c. Do you have recommendations on how to improve public education in California, as it relates to your company's current and future workforce and small business vendor needs?
3. How can the state support local and national efforts to provide a workforce better prepared to excel in STEM-based careers?
  - a. Has the firm ever engaged with its local workforce investment board? Has the firm reviewed the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and thought about how the business engagement mandate may positively impact you?
  - b. How effective is the state's K-12 and higher education systems in helping you access skilled workers?
  - c. Does your firm offer internships or sponsor other workforce preparation activities? How do you advertise these opportunities?
  - d. How is your company addressing workforce diversity?
4. What actions can the state take to facilitate cross-border commerce and reduce de facto barriers to trade?
  - a. Do you export products by air or sea?
  - b. Do you import parts or components?
  - c. Do you use foreign trade zones?
  - d. Are there steps California should take to help the IT industry be more globally competitive?
  - e. Is California's goods movement infrastructure sufficient to meet your company's needs?