

January 11, 2020
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Dear Senator Skinner:

I am concerned about working conditions. Wealth in this country has been growing ever more concentrated with California home to both extremes. While many things have contributed to this problem the collapse of labor unions with membership at an eight decade low along with long stagnant minimum wages have been big contributors. Courts have been accelerating this trend by expanding arbitration, weakening unions, crippling health insurance and allowing a creeping redefinition of workers. The tech sector in particular has abused independent contractor status as a catch phrase for expendables not deserving a living wage or safety net. As the federal government recedes from its responsibilities California has stepped up with AB5. As it takes effect there is a dash (for instance at Uber) to wiggle around it and lobby for exceptions.

Please assure me that you will maintain AB5 for fair employment.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our equitable society.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson