

January 12, 2020
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Dear Governor Newsom:

I am concerned about working conditions. Wealth in this country has been growing ever more concentrated with California home to both extremes. Today companies are leaving San Francisco and people are leaving California while the state drives both the national homeless crisis and the country's booming stock sales. While many things have contributed to this problem the collapse of labor unions, long stagnant minimum wages and abuse of contractor status have been big contributors. Courts have not helped: 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 not weaken AB5.

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

Sincerely,
Eric Babson