February 25, 2011

The Honorable Cameron Smyth

State Capitol, Room

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 148, relating to Local Government Ethics Training; Disclosure

 California Association of Clerks and Election Officials…Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Assemblymember Smyth:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) will oppose unless amended your Assembly Bill 148, which would require local agencies to report and post the record of ethics training requirements in their respective jurisdiction. The measure would be burdensome to administer as currently written. CACEO proposes several amendments to the bill that would continue to achieve the perceived legislative intent without imposing unworkable mandates on local officials.

CACEO proposed that AB 148 be amended to add “local agency” as one of the organizations that could adopt “compensation setting guidelines” that would be considered “ethics laws” and which would be a required portion of the ethics training.  The Association is grateful for your acceptance of this amendment, which gives the local agency the option of training on its own compensation setting guidelines, rather than train on guidelines adopted.

The Association continues to request that AB 148 be amended to require a local agency to only post the ethics training records of elected officials and all local officials who are required to file a Form 700 pursuant to GC 87200 – the real decision makers of a local agency – rather than the records of ALL trainees.  Our proposed amendments would limit this activity to the records of those local officials who are the top tier decision makers; the people who can make decisions related to their own compensation.

CACEO respectfully requests you careful consideration of the suggested amendments. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the request.

Sincerely,

Matt Siverling

Legislative Advocate

CACEO