

To:

Senator Sam Aanestad
Senator Roy Ashburn
Senator James Battin
Senator Gilbert Cedillo
Senator Ellen Corbett
Senator Dave Cox
Senator Robert Dutton
Senator Dean Florez
Senator Sheila Kuehl
Senator Jenny Oropeza
Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas
Senator George C. Runner
Senator Joseph Simitian
Senator Darrell Steinberg
Senator Tom Torlakson
Senator Mark Wyland
Senator Leland Yee

Dear Senator,

We write to request your support of Assembly Bill 1089 (Hernandez), which would prohibit a state agency from entering into a contract of \$100,000 or more with a company supporting the Sudanese government and their ongoing genocide in Darfur.

Since the genocide began in Darfur in 2003, the Sudanese government has murdered between 200,000-400,000 men, women, and children in what the United Nations has called the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Over 2.7 million people have been displaced from their homes as 90% of Darfur's villages have been destroyed. Today over 3 million people are dependent on foreign food aid and many Darfuri children have never known life outside of refugee camps. Recently, humanitarian groups and peacekeeping troops have come under attack; and attacks on villages mirror the worst days of the conflict in 2004. Given these circumstances, we all must take every action we can to combat the violence. Genocide is an expensive venture and we demand that our tax dollars not be a source of funding for the Government of Sudan and its campaign of murder, destruction, torture, and systematic rape.

We request that the Senate Appropriations Committee support AB 1089 given the recent escalation of violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and the passage by Congress of last year's Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act (SADA) (S.2271 (Dodd)). SADA authorizes states to prohibit state government contracts with companies that provide revenue primarily for the Sudanese government at the expense of marginalized populations. AB 1089 is written for this purpose yet is currently on the Suspense File in the Committee on Appropriations. The bill has been amended according to the federal

law and therefore should be considered and supported by the Committee this legislative year.

Our coalition of organizations strongly supports the spirit and substance of AB 1089 and encourage its quick passage. This legislation reflects California's bold leadership on this issue and will place much-needed economic pressure on the Sudanese government with the goal of stopping the genocide. Thank you in advance for your support on this critical legislation.