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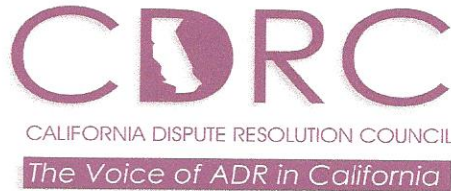
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TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FROM: PAUL DUBOW for CDRC

RE: SB 907 (MONNING)---SUPPORT SET FOR HEARING 4.1.14

DATE: MARCH 26, 2014

On behalf of the CDRC, I request your YES vote on SB 907. CDRC was organized in 1994 to advocate fair, accessible, and effective alternate dispute resolution processes before the legislature, state administrative agencies, and the courts. The membership of CDRC consists of several hundred individual ADR neutrals, together with community dispute resolution organizations and providers of ADR services which taken together, represent more than 15,000 mediators and arbitrators in California. CDRC positions do not represent the views of any individual member.

Existing law, the International Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation Act, authorizes the parties in a conciliation proceeding covering international commercial disputes to appear in person or be represented or assisted by any person of their choice, and provides that a person representing or assisting a party is not required to be a member of the legal profession or licensed to practice law in California. However, it is unclear whether a person representing or assisting a party in an arbitration proceeding covering international commercial disputes can be person who is not a member of the legal profession or licensed to practice law in California. As a consequence, many international arbitrations which otherwise might be conducted in California are conducted in other jurisdictions, even where at least one party is a California domiciliary, because many individuals who normally represent parties in international arbitrations are not licensed to practice law in California.

CDRC supports this bill because it will promote California's interest in becoming a major center for international commercial arbitration by requiring the act to be construed liberally and eliminating the anomaly between international conciliation and arbitration proceedings.

CDRC Administration

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CDRC also expresses its appreciation to Senator Bill Monning for authoring this most important legislation.

cc: Senator Bill Monning