



City Manager's Office – Intergovernmental Relations

City of Arts & Innovation

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Chris R. Holden
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2046 (Medina) University of California: Inland Rising Fund – As Amended 3/2/2022 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Holden:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I write to express our support for AB 2046 (Medina), legislation which establishes the Inland Rising Fund (IRF). The IRF will allocate monies to specific University of California locations to support multiyear operating costs for innovative climate change research efforts and health care and medical research operations.

The Inland Empire is among the lowest in educational attainment levels and per-capita income. The regions' universities support the state's highest proportion of undergraduate, low-income, and first-generation students. State investment would support more equitable outcomes for our local students and their communities.

AB 2046 directs nearly \$1.4 billion to increasing enrollment, tackling climate change, and training healthcare workers. University of California, Riverside (UCR) is uniquely positioned to contribute to the economic vitality of California's inland regions through economic development, research innovation, and continuing enrollment growth of undergraduate, professional, and graduate students. Through state support, UCR will leverage their existing strengths in social mobility, clean technology, and air pollution research to advance sustainability, innovation, and social inclusion.

For these reasons, the City of Riverside supports AB 2046. If you have questions regarding the City's position, please contact Chekesha Gilliam, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at (951) 826-2419 or CGilliam@riversideca.gov.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Jose Medina
City of Riverside Legislative Delegation