



**DAMON CONNOLLY**  
Assemblymember, District 12

# NEWSLETTER

## DEAR FRIENDS,

The Legislative Session is now in full swing! This means policy committees are meeting, bills are being voted on, and our State Budget is getting finalized. There are a lot of updates to share on these topics, as well as exciting new proposals from the Governor, district events, a new appointment, and an upcoming town hall that I'm hosting in Marin.

I look forward to our continued work together making the North Bay a better place. As always, feel free to call and email my me or my staff - *we're here to serve you!*



### **AD 12 UPDATES**

Holding Big Oil Accountable

Woman of the Year

San Quentin Rehabilitation Center

Sonoma Legislative Town Hall

State of the Judiciary Address

Workforce Development Board

Update on Legislation

Upcoming District Events



## HOLDING BIG OIL ACCOUNTABLE

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After a month of intense negotiations, I joined my legislative colleagues, Attorney General Rob Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom to sign into law [Senate Bill \(SB\) 2](#), a first-in-the-nation law that will hold big oil companies accountable for price gouging California consumers.

In response to Californians facing egregiously high gas prices last year, the Governor and State Legislators took action to pass this new transparency and oversight law, which creates a new independent watchdog agency to root out price gouging by oil companies and authorizes a penalty to hold the industry accountable if impropriety is discovered.

As a member of the Utilities and Energy Committee, I examined this law with my colleagues and helped pass it to the Assembly Floor, where a full vote secured its passage to the Governor's desk.

To watch a highlight video of the press conference, [click here](#).

## Woman of the Year

I was thrilled to honor Petaluma City Schools Board President Joanna Paun as Assembly District (AD) 12's Woman of the Year. The Woman of the Year event was founded in 1987 by Assemblywoman Bev Hansen and Assemblywoman Sally Tanner, who noticed that the Legislature had no events planned for Women's History Month.

Ms. Paun was chosen for her passion and dedication to advocacy, promoting equity and elevating student voices. Under Ms. Paun's leadership, the Petaluma School Board has sought to make the district a safe and welcoming space for all students, most recently by conducting a study to identify equity and opportunity gaps.

Ms. Paun attended the Assembly's celebration ceremony in the State Capitol with her mother and eldest daughter - it was a pleasure to host them up in Sacramento.





## SAN QUENTIN REHABILITATION PROJECT

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I joined Governor Newsom and fellow Bay Area legislators to announce a transformation of San Quentin prison into an innovative facility focused on improving public safety through rehabilitation and education. The prison will be developed and improved under the direction of an advisory group composed of state and world-renowned rehabilitation and public safety experts. The historic effort at San Quentin has never been pursued at this scale and I couldn't be more thrilled that it's happening right here in the North Bay!

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This program will serve as a nationwide evidence-backed model to advance a more effective justice system that builds safer communities.



## SONOMA LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL

Despite the rain, we had a great turnout with almost 60 people attending my *first* legislative town hall in Rohnert Park. This was an excellent opportunity get feedback from the community, hear input on legislation, and answer questions from attendees.

Thank you to the Sonoma County community for engaging in the discussion and sharing your local priorities. A special thanks to Sally Tomatoes for hosting. Our next legislative town hall will be in Mill Valley on April 8th, stay tuned!





## STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

As a new member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, I was honored to be selected to escort California Supreme Court Justice Patricia Guerrero, our State's first Latina Justice (and Chief Justice) for her State of the Judiciary address.

During her address, Chief Justice Guerrero declared that the courts' *"number one goal now is access, fairness, diversity, and inclusion."* Guerrero applauded the State's efforts to address issues like untreated mental health and substance abuse challenges. She also praised her four most recent predecessors, including Chief Justice Rose Bird, who Guerrero said *"helped generations to come by breaking gender barriers in the courts."*

A native of the Imperial Valley raised by immigrant parents from Mexico, Chief Justice Guerrero began working in a grocery store at the age of 16 and graduated as co-valedictorian in high school. She continued working to help pay for her education while attending the University of California, Berkeley, where she was honored with an award given to the top two students in the Legal Studies major upon graduation in 1994. In 1997, she earned a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School and received an award for excellence in legal writing.

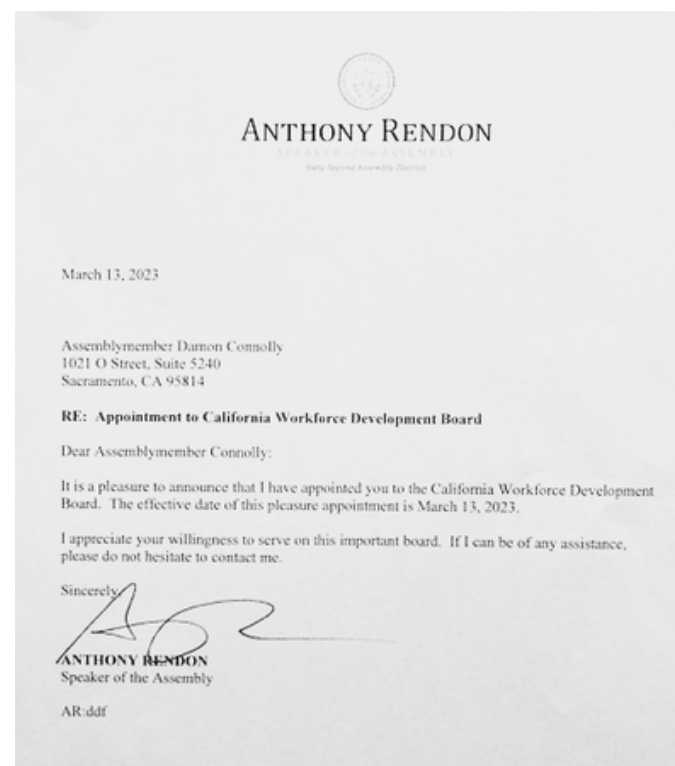
To watch the address, [click here](#).

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPOINTMENT

An exciting recent development - Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon appointed me to [California's Workforce Development Board!](#)

The CWDB is the Governor's agent for the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce development system. The CWDB assists the Governor in setting and guiding workforce development policy, developing innovative initiatives through statewide programs.

As a member of the Board, I look forward to elevating workers' voices, improving equity, and strengthening environmental sustainability.





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



In just a few weeks, I'm pleased to report that I've passed ten bills out of their first policy committees - approximately half of our entire bill package! A summary of those bills can be found below:

**AB 92 (body armor prohibition):** Based on the disturbing trend of mass shooters using military-grade body armor to prolong their rampages, this bill will prohibit anyone who is barred from possessing firearms - violent criminals, domestic abusers, mentally unstable individuals, etc - from purchasing or possessing body armor - *passed Asm Public Safety (7-0-1)*.

**AB 99 (pesticide spraying restrictions):** Maintains local environmental protections by requiring the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) to eliminate the spraying of pesticides on highways in counties (like Marin and Sonoma) that have passed resolutions restricting the use of such toxic chemicals - *passed Asm Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials (7-2-0)*.

**AB 319 (protecting mobile home residents):** Establishes greater transparency with mobile home inspectors by requiring them to disclose any financial investments in mobile home parks they supervise, or any residences in the region, thus eliminating the potential for conflicts of interest that could put housing inspectors in ethically compromising situations - *passed Asm Housing and Community Development (8-0)*.

**AB 388 (expediting fire prevention grants):** Expedites funding for vegetation management projects by allowing CalFire to approve groups of grants, instead of authorizing them one-by-one - *passed Asm Natural Resources (11-0)*.

**AB 404 (streamlining organic farming certification):** Requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to evaluate duplicative reporting requirements affecting small and mid-scale farmers/farming operations, specifically relating to the process of transitioning to organic farming and obtaining organic certification - *passed Asm Agriculture (8-0-3)*.

**AB 405 (modernizing organic certification applications):** Upgrades California's organic food registration system, moving it from a paper based system to online - *passed Asm Agriculture (8-0-3)*.

**AB 406 (expanding grant opportunities for organic farming):** Expands millions-of-dollars in grant opportunities for sustainable farmers by including "organic farming" in the Healthy Soils and California Farmland Conservancy programs - *passed Asm Agriculture (8-0-3)*.

**AB 838 (water bill transparency):** Requires public water agencies to include in their yearly reports information about their rates/charges, as well as plans for infrastructure and repairs - *passed Asm Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials (9-0)*.

**AB 953 (marine life & whale vessel protections):** Creates a statewide vessel speed reduction program to reduce pollution impacts from oceangoing vessels and reduce the chance of whale strikes off the coast - *passed Asm Water, Parks and Wildlife (15-0)*.

**AB 998 (biomass facilities long-term planning):** Establishes a long-term plan to phase out older, polluting combustion biomass facilities and identifies opportunities to upgrade facilities to greener sustainable models - *passed Asm Natural Resources (11-0)*.

**AB 1132 (solar permit fees):** Joint-authored by Assemblymember Laura Friedman and Connolly, this extends the law that limits the permit fees a city or county can charge for solar energy systems, ensuring that solar projects are affordable in local communities - *passed Asm Local Government (8-0)*.

## UPCOMING EVENT!

My office continues to remain engaged with the community and helping constituents resolve a variety of issues. Part of this engagement is hosting district events where you can ask questions and share your input on issues.

Following our Sonoma Legislative Town Hall, we will be hosting another in Marin County on April 8th. Information and an RSVP for this event can be found below.

### Marin County Legislative Town Hall

#### WHERE:

Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley, CA 94941

#### WHEN:

Saturday, April 8, 2022, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### RSVP:

[CLICK HERE](#)

or visit: <https://a12.asmdc.org/events>

As always, my door is open and my staff are available to assist you. Feel free to contact me through my website, or by calling one of my offices.

With gratitude,

*Damon*

Damon Connolly  
Assemblymember, 12th District