

**2019 BizFed Leadership
Roundtable Series: Assemblyman Rudy Salas**

Salas to BizFed Members: Mobilize!



Last week, 32nd District Assemblyman Rudy Salas joined BizFed members at a Legislative event hosted by the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce.

The state legislature has been out of session for about a month, and Salas shared his opinions on what he believes made the 2019 lawmaking season a “mixed bag.”

The Bakersfield Democrat said he was encouraged by the amount of time Governor Gavin Newsom spent in the Central Valley, but he was unnerved by the recent announcement that sales tax money earmarked for improvements to Highway 99, was being redirected out of the Valley.

Salas also offered business leaders insights to help them facilitate better advocacy and messaging when dealing with state bureaucrats, saying the business community has been lacking when it comes to mobilizing employees and their families to be present at regulatory hearings. The Assemblyman said it was important to let officials know how any potential new regulations on business would impact individuals and families.

“Here are real people showing up,” he said. “Let the regulators have a chance to see them.”

Salas, in 2019, authored two bills designed to reform CEQA, California’s environmental evaluation process by which land is approved for development. Neither made it out of committee, but they were designated “two-year bills,” meaning they’ll be back for consideration next year.



Salas said his legislation would create the “Golden One” standard, meaning it would grant exemptions and allowances for projects important to the economic health of the state, as was done in the City of Sacramento to facilitate the speedy construction of the Golden One Center downtown. Salas said some lawmakers are wary about casting a ‘yes’ vote on anything that might be rejected by environmentalists.

“Everyone wants to do something,” Salas said. “Nobody wants to do anything.”

Salas also reminded BizFed members that proposed new taxes on tires, tax, opioids, sodas were all defeated during the 2019 session.

Be a part of the next BizFed Legislative Round Table! Look for emails announcing upcoming events.