

## CAVC State Capitol Meetings

Members of the California Automatic Vendors Council spent February 20<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol meeting with key legislators and staff regarding potential legislation on the tax of snack foods sold in vending machines and the sale of nutritional foods in vending machines.

CAVC members first met with Richard Zeiger, Senator Tom Torlakson's Chief of Staff, his Legislative Director, Jennifer Swenson, and Legislative Aide, Autumn Ogden. (*Senator Torlakson was home sick with bronchitis*) Senator Torlakson plans to pursue legislation applying the current nutritional standards for vending machines in schools to state buildings. In 2006, Torlakson had similar legislation which CAVC opposed. The bill did not pass out of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. At that time, in discussions with Torlakson both sides pledged to work together in 2007 on a compromise measure. The meeting was very productive and Senator Torlakson's staff was very responsive to the concerns raised by CAVC members about the needs of adult consumers vs. students. Mr. Zeiger has asked CAVC to propose a workable standard for the industry and share this in writing with him and the Senator in the near future.

CAVC then met with Assembly Member George Plescia who has agreed to carry legislation for the vendors to eliminate the tax on snack foods sold in vending machines. He was very happy to meet with the group and benefited from hearing the arguments in support of the legislation.

CAVC members also had a lengthy discussion with Kimberly Bott, Chief Consultant with the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee about the snack tax legislation. Ms. Bott had a number of questions about the issue and the discussion was educational and positive.

CAVC members then stopped by and talked with Assembly Member Mike Eng's Chief of Staff, Julio Martinez. Mr. Martinez expressed Assembly Member Eng's support for the vending industry and said he would talk to Eng about co-authoring the snack tax legislation.

CAVC members ended the day with Assembly Member Ted Lieu who has introduced legislation that would prohibit trans fats in foods sold in vending machines at schools (AB 86). The group talked with Assembly Member Lieu about the need to provide an appropriate phase-in so manufacturers can produce foods that comply with the nutritional standards already in place in schools and can also eliminate trans fats from these same foods. CAVC also asked Assembly Member Lieu to co-author their legislation addressing snack taxes. Lieu agreed to co-author the legislation.

Since this day of meetings legislation has been introduced. SB 441- state property; vending machines (Torlakson) and AB 728 (Plescia) – sales and use taxes; vending machines. Both of these bills will be a top priority for CAVC this year.