

**COMMITTEES**  
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EDUCATION  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
BANKING AND FINANCE  
  
CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INNOVATIVE GREEN FINANCING  
MECHANISMS

Assembly  
California Legislature



**DAS WILLIAMS**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

May 5, 2014

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Katrina Abston  
Head of Schools  
California Virtual Academies  
2360 Shasta Way, Unit A  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Dear Ms. Abston,

It has recently come to my attention that the employees at California Virtual Academies (CAVA) decided to unionize with the California Teachers Association. I support their legally protected decision and am confident they are committed to improving both learning and teaching conditions at CAVA.

A primary purpose of California's public education system is to educate and prepare students to participate in our democratic institutions, culture and society. It is crucial that we maintain the public character of our public education system.

Since your Charter and Charter Renewal Agreement expressly acknowledges your schools to be the exclusive public school employer of the employees within the meaning of the Educational Employment Act, I anticipate that CAVA will fully honor the employees' rights to organize under PERB.

Further, in the months to come when PERB certifies the union as the exclusive representative, you will have the opportunity to collectively bargain with the educators who work at CAVA. I encourage you and the rest of CAVA/K-12 administration to take this responsibility seriously, and engage with your employees in a respectful and productive way. It would be very disappointing if CAVA/K-12's response was anything but respectful of your employee's rights as clearly established in the EERA.

As a former board member at a unionized charter school, I can tell you that teachers acting collectively has not impeded, and in some cases has helped, the innovative spirit that I and others respect and need from charters.

I look forward to watching this relationship progress. If there is anything I can do to help, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Das Williams".

DAS WILLIAMS  
Assembly Member, AD 37

Cc: CAVA Governing Board Members, CAVA Educators, K-12 Administration