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**From:** [Shawntae Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [Haddon, Stacey](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Chamber of Commerce Funding Cut  
**Sent:** 6/11/2025 12:30:01 PM

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Dear Lompoc City Council Members,

As a Lompoc resident, voter, and small business owner, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the City Council's recent decision to drastically reduce funding for the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce.

As the owner of EmpoweredU Financial Coaching, I have directly benefited from the Chamber's unwavering commitment to local businesses. Through its advocacy, resources, and events, the Chamber fosters an environment where small businesses can grow, collaborate, and thrive. It serves as a vital link between entrepreneurs and the larger economic ecosystem of our city.

But the Chamber's value extends far beyond business. It is also a key contributor to the future of our community through programs like Leadership Lompoc Valley and Youth Leadership Lompoc Valley. These initiatives develop civic-minded leaders who are equipped to serve and strengthen Lompoc for generations to come. Investing in the Chamber is an investment in our future—building leadership, engagement, and pride in our city.

The decision to remove funding, especially without input from the business community and voters, is deeply concerning. It sends the message that the voices of small businesses, voters, and future leaders are not being considered in decisions that directly affects them.

I respectfully urge you to reverse this decision and restore funding to the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is not just a service provider—it is a pillar of progress, connection, and opportunity for our entire community.

Sincerely,  
Shawntae Rodriguez  
Owner, EmpoweredU Financial Coaching  
Lompoc Resident and Voter

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EmpoweredU Financial Coaching, LLC  
BY SHAWNTAE