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June 15, 2020

California Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA California Legislature Advocates Portal

RE: OPPOSE - SB 902 Planning and zoning: housing development: density.

Dear Senator Portantino and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for your concern and work toward housing solutions in California.

We write today on behalf of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County (CASCC), an association of the fifteen cities of the county and the elected representatives of more than 1.9 million Bay-Area residents. Since 1990, the city representatives have been gathering to discuss and find consensus and solutions for regional issues. The cities of our association are diverse and include cities of a few thousand people and a city of a million people.

The CASCC is opposed to SB 902 (Wiener), a bill that would provide that a neighborhood multifamily project (up to fourplexes, based on population) as a use by right in zones where residential uses are permitted if the project is not located in a very high fire severity zone, does not demolish sound rental housing or housing that has been placed on a national or state historic register, and follows specified local objective criteria. This measure would also allow a local government to pass an ordinance, notwithstanding any local restrictions on adopting zoning ordinances enacted by the jurisdiction, including restrictions enacted by a local voter initiative, that limit the legislative body's ability to adopt zoning ordinances, to zone any parcel for up to 10 units of residential density per parcel, at a height specified by the local government in the ordinance, and not be subject to CEQA.

Housing bills such as SB 902 radically change the landscape of our communities and mandates that cities choose haphazard zoning without understanding and ignoring environmental impacts. Largely ignored is that many of our communities are creating more housing in an environmentally friendly way and we all should continue to do so.

Furthermore, we respectfully request that critical housing legislation that could radically change our communities not be rushed through the legislative process while the public is sheltered at home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Klein

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President, Cities Association
Mayor, City of Sunnyvale

Chair, Legislative Action Committee
Vice-Mayor, City of Los Altos

cc: Senators Wieckowski, Beall, Hill, Monning,
Assembly Members Rivas, Kalra, Chu, Berman, Low, Stone
Seth Miller, Peninsula Division, League of California Cities
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