



City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Trish Kelley
Mayor

Wendy Bucknum
Mayor Pro Tem

Brian Goodell
Council Member

Greg Rath
Council Member

Edward Sachs
Council Member

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 140 – Housing Trailer Bill: Oppose

Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding SB 140, the proposed housing trailer bill that will soon be considered by the Legislature.

The bill, which was just recently amended, would remove a critical aspect of local control for cities and local agencies to approve the leasing of state-owned property within a city's jurisdiction. As currently drafted, section 1 of the bill strikes language that requires the state to receive consent from the "governing body of any concerned local agency" when leasing state-owned property. While the goal of the legislation is to increase the supply of housing, emergency shelters, parks, and recreation facilities, the bill goes too far in its attempt to alter cities' approval process for these types of agreements.

I respectfully request that this provision be removed from the bill and the authority of local agencies and cities be retained.

While the state is in the midst of a housing crisis, and we support collaborative efforts to increase the state's housing supply, cities must be able to maintain its authority when state leases are established or renewed. This legislation would essentially create an exemption for the state when entering lease agreements and would bypass the City's process by which all other property agreements are considered.

Moreover, this bill sets a precedent for potential future efforts by the state to usurp cities' authority. It is critical that the Legislature not compromise local control in its efforts to encourage additional housing projects – rather, the state should partner with local agencies and collaborate with cities to increase housing based on the community and existing approval process.

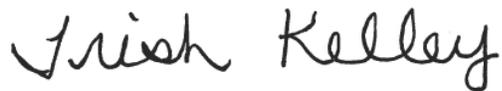


The Honorable Nancy Skinner & The Honorable Phil Ting
RE: SB 140 – Housing Trailer Bill: Oppose
July 9, 2021
Page 2 of 2

Additionally, this trailer bill has not been considered under regular order – there have been no committee hearings, no analysis, no public input, and no debate on this issue since the bill was amended. Such a major change in state policy should go through the normal legislative process so the Budget Committees receive adequate input from the public and other members of the Legislature.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, we look forward to a favorable outcome for local agencies across the state.

Sincerely,



Trish Kelley
Mayor

cc: Senator Pat Bates
Senator Dave Min
Assembly Member Laurie Davies
Assembly Member Cottie Petrie Norris
City of Mission Viejo City Council Members
Lori Ann Farrell Harrison, City Manager ~ City of Costa Mesa
Dennis Wilberg, City Manager ~ City of Mission Viejo

