August 8, 2019

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian  
California State Assembly, 46th District  
State Capitol, Room 4146  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 429 (Nazarian) Seismically vulnerable buildings: inventory.  
   City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Nazarian,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your AB 429. This bill will require the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission (Commission) to identify funding and develop a bidding process for hiring a third-party contractor to create an inventory of potentially seismically vulnerable buildings in 29 specified counties.

More than 28 million Californians live in high-risk areas for seismic activity. According to the most recent California ShakeOut study a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault could cause more than $200 billion in damages and result in 1,800 or more deaths. In 2016, the California Geological Survey estimated California’s annualized earthquake loss at the state level at approximately $3.7 billion. Despite the state having some of the most advanced earthquake resistant buildings in the world there are still thousands of buildings within the state that are at a heightened risk during an earthquake.

The City of Beverly Hills has approximately 300 wood frame, multi-unit residential buildings constructed prior to January 1, 1978, where the ground floor portion of the building contains parking or other open floor space that causes soft, weak, or open front wall lines. These structures are known as soft-story buildings and are considered potentially hazardous as they have demonstrated vulnerability to collapse in the event of an earthquake. In January 2019, a Beverly Hills City Ordinance went into effect to address the vulnerabilities of soft-story buildings through the additional of lateral stiffness and strength on the ground floor level.
Even though several local jurisdictions have already made selected inventories of some seismically vulnerable buildings, many others have not. Currently, there is no formal and/or universal standard to which local jurisdictions may refer to when compiling a local inventory of buildings that require seismic mitigation actions. An accurate statewide inventory of potentially seismically vulnerable buildings will provide an essential tool in assessing the extent of California’s damage risk.

**AB 429** will require the Commission to create and maintain an inventory of buildings that are potentially vulnerable to seismic activity based on certain criteria that will allow local governments and private individuals to take the steps necessary to address those vulnerabilities.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **AB 429**. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

John A. Mirisch  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Governmental Organization Committee  
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.