July 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate, 9th District
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814


City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Skinner,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in respectful OPPOSITION to your SB 1085. This bill would override local control and strip local governments of long-held land use authorities which form the bedrock of local government and place them under the purview of the state.

The City of Beverly Hills has long supported the preservation of local control, as localities are best suited to aptly address the needs of local constituents. The City of Beverly Hills has put forth a great amount of time and effort into ensuring that the City’s growth is well-planned and takes the City’s future housing needs into account. The City consistently meets its Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) housing production requirements and works with other local governments in the region to do our part to ensure that regional housing needs are met.

SB 1085 would upend these efforts and impose a one-size-fits-all statewide solution to an issue that is best addressed on a regional and local basis. This bill would override local discretionary land use authority and prevent municipalities, like ours, from best serving our communities. Additionally, lowering the required percentage of affordable units from 40 percent to 20 percent will incentivize the development of moderate-income units at the expense of low- and very low-income households. This will further exacerbate the state’s housing crisis and fail to address housing affordability for California's lower-income households.

The City of Beverly Hills has long supported the preservation of local control, which this bill would further erode. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully OPPOSE your SB 1085. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
    The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
    The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
    Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange