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**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

County Administration
Building

105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Senate, State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 828 (Weiner) Housing Element: Regional Housing Needs– Oppose

Dear Senator Ricardo Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our opposition SB 828 (Weiner), which would make significant changes to the existing Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process.

In line with CSAC's letter dated April 18th, the County is concerned that SB 828 (Weiner) would result in the erosion of local discretionary land use authority. SB 828 substantially alters provisions of existing law that explicitly acknowledge that, although local governments are charged with adequately zoning to accommodate housing needs at all income level, there are many factors out of local governments' control that determine whether every site zoned for housing will result in actual construction.

The County is also opposed to the bill's language that would unrealistically increase requirements to zone for certain types of housing in excess of amounts forecasted to be necessary at each income level, and potentially beyond the amount that can feasibly be accommodated in the unincorporated area.

The Board of Supervisor's adopted a 2018 Legislative Platform that specifically opposes the preemption of local control of land use policies, therefore the County is opposed to SB 828 (Wiener). If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg, Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Senator Bill Dodd, Author
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mark McKenzie, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Doug Yoakam, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 13th Senate District
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District

Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisor