



736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager
(707) 822-5953

Police
822-2428

Recreation
822-7091

Community Development
822-5955

Finance
822-5951

Transportation
822-3775

Environmental Services
Streets/Utilities
822-5957

Environmental Services
Community Services
822-8184

Engineering
& Building
825-2128

June 24, 2019

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government
1020 N St., Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 5 (Beall/McGuire/Portantino) Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program—Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended 6/17/2019)

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

The City of Arcata supports SB 5 (Beall/McGuire/Portantino), the Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program. SB 5 gives cities the tools to improve communities while acknowledging the need for flexible funding to spur housing construction and revitalize communities.

The elimination of redevelopment in 2011 created a huge deficit in community revitalization resources throughout California, including an annual loss of \$1 billion in funding for low- and moderate-income housing. In Arcata, the annual loss was \$500,000 alone. It has been significantly more difficult to put financing together for affordable housing projects since the loss of this vital resource. In particular, as HOME and CDBG funds become more difficult to count on, lacking the reliable local funding means we cannot make strong commitments to our housing partners. This uncertainty undermines our effectiveness bringing much needed affordable housing to our residents.

SB 5 provides the opportunities for communities to access additional tax increment revenues to fund affordable housing, infrastructure, and economic development projects that advance state and local priorities, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding transit oriented development (TOD), addressing poverty, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

The time is right for the state to fill the void left by the elimination of redevelopment and provide more tools to support local efforts to build more affordable housing, provide essential infrastructure, and create opportunities in underserved communities.

For these reasons, the City of Arcata supports SB 5 (Beall/McGuire/Portantino).

Sincerely,



Brett Watson
Mayor
Arcata, CA

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov & VIA FAX: (916) 651-4902
Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov
Assembly Member Jim Wood, VIA FAX: (707) 445-6607 & (916) 319-2102
Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@cacities.org
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org