June 5, 2018

The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Senate, State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 828 (Weiner) Housing Element: Regional Housing Needs– Oppose as Amended on May 25th

Dear Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our opposition to SB 828 (Weiner) as amended on May 25th, which would continue to make significant changes to the existing Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process.

In line with CSAC’s letters dated April 18th and May 30th, the County continues to be 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 levels, 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
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Scott Wiener, Author
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisor