



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 20, 2019

The Honorable Tom Umberg
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 450 (Umberg) California Environmental Quality Act exemption: supportive and transitional housing: motel conversion.

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), thank you for introducing Senate Bill 450 (Umberg). Long Beach is proud to sponsor this legislation. In Long Beach, individuals experiencing homelessness and families that are precariously housed face constant barriers in finding housing. This legislation proposes a way to facilitate production of supportive and transitional housing while also improving public safety outcomes in our communities. Exempting interim motel housing projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will allow for expedited conversion of motels into much-needed housing for vulnerable individuals and families.

SB 450 is consistent with the City's support of policies that promote the development of affordable and accessible housing. It is also imperative that Long Beach residents live in safe communities, attend safe schools, and are contributing and connected members of their communities. This bill achieves both of these goals while also building on the City's work to-date. Recently, the City identified several nuisance motels that have disproportionately high calls for service and crime reports. Furthermore, the City's Everyone Home Task Force identified priority recommendations to provide a comprehensive housing and support system to prevent residents from falling into homelessness and while providing new pathways to housing.

Exempting motel conversion projects from CEQA, as SB 450 (Umberg) proposes, would facilitate the production of supportive and transitional housing and would reduce the negative

externalities of nuisance motels borne by nearby communities. SB 450 is a pivotal, coordinated step forward in producing supportive housing units and ending homelessness in Long Beach.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach is proud to sponsor and supports SB 450 (Umberg).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
 The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
 The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
 The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
 The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District
 Senate Committee on Environmental Quality