



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 450 (Umberg) California Environmental Quality Act Exemption: Supportive and Transitional Housing: Motel Conversion

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in strong support of Senate Bill 450 (Umberg). Long Beach is proud to sponsor this legislation which proposes to exempt interim motel housing projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to allow for expedited conversion into much-needed housing for vulnerable individuals and families. 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.

SB 450 is consistent with the City's support for policies and initiatives that promote the development of affordable and accessible housing. The City has consistently been committed to addressing barriers to affordable housing and services to Long Beach residents, as evidenced by our nationally recognized Continuum of Care, set of Everyone Home Long Beach recommendations, and comprehensive parking citation payment plans. Sponsoring legislation that could increase California's supportive and transitional housing stock naturally aligns with the City's housing and cost of living initiatives. I thank Senator Tom Umberg for his partnership on SB 450.

It is evident that part of the struggle with addressing homelessness is ample housing that can accommodate people experiencing homelessness, including supportive services to address some of the challenges people experiencing homelessness may face. Exempting motel conversion projects from CEQA, as SB 450 proposes, would facilitate the production of new supportive and transitional housing. This legislation has the added benefit of reducing negative externalities of nuisance motels, which are already being used by individuals and families on the brink of experiencing homelessness. SB 450 is a pivotal step forward in addressing the statewide housing crisis.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach is proud to support SB 450 (Umberg) and requests your signature on this bill.

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 Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
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

562.570.6801 | mayor@longbeach.gov | @LongBeachMayor
411 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802