



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate, 12th District
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 12 (McGuire) - Local government: planning and zoning: wildfires
City of Beverly Hills - Oppose

Dear Senator McGuire,

I write to inform you that the City of Beverly Hills respectfully OPPOSES your SB 12, which would impose certain fire hazard planning responsibilities on local governments and require cities and counties to make specified findings on fire standards before permitting development in the very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ).

While the City of Beverly Hills is supportive of the intent of this bill, it takes away local control over land-use decisions. Local jurisdictions invested a considerable amount of time and resources in developing and planning for future development. This process includes a deep analysis of the City's needs and large amounts of staff time gathering community input. Through this process, local jurisdictions analyze and identify the most suitable locations for housing to meet their future housing needs.

SB 12 presupposes that local governments do not already put considerate thought into planning development in the VHFHSZ. Our City views the safety of its community and its residents as a high priority and we are constantly looking at ways to improve the safety of those living in VHFHSZ. Local governments know their communities' safety needs best, and removing their control over local land use decisions places land use decisions in the hands of less invested people than those who live in these communities. Residents elect local officials who can best represent their communities and provide for their safety.

As drafted, and while well-intentioned, we remain concerned that SB 12 would erode local control over local governments' discretionary land use authority, which has been consistently weakened year after year in Sacramento. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully OPPOSE SB 12.

Sincerely,

Robert Wunderlich

Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Local Government Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange