



City of Desert Hot Springs

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March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Carol Liu
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 651-4925

RE: SB 876 (Liu) Enforcement of Local Ordinances
Notice of OPPOSITION, as Amended 2/22/16

Dear Senator Liu:

On behalf of the City of Desert Hot Springs, I regret to inform you of our opposition of Senate Bill 876 (Liu).

This measure is preempting local authority to address important issues affecting public health and safety in public spaces and on private property that is held open to the public, including not limited to, plazas, courtyards, parking lots, sidewalks, public transportation facilities, public buildings, shopping centers and parks. We recognize that this measure is well intentioned; however, local agencies must continue to be able to protect the public, health, safety and welfare of their communities. Moreover, we do not believe this measure will make a positive impact in the effort to address chronic homelessness.

Removing local enforcement authority as you propose in SB 876 will do nothing to help the problem, and would actually undermine existing efforts. SB 876 contains no solutions for ending homelessness. In fact, the bill on page 3, line 16, specifically states, "Passing this Act will not reduce homelessness." The amendments offered in the bill still remove local authority to enforce ordinances and could exacerbate the problem by removing incentives for some to take advantage of existing resources and services being offered.

The key to getting people off of the streets is to provide more shelter. We need resources: permanent housing beds and accompanying social services such as mental health treatment, job training, addiction counseling, etc. Cities and other local agencies need more funding and flexibility to provide these proven programs.

[INSERT YOUR COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS IN SOLVING HOMELESSNESS]

Once again, the City of Desert Hot Springs regrets to inform you of our opposition to SB 876.

Sincerely,

Scott Matas, Mayor
City of Desert Hot Springs

cc: The Honorable Jeff Stone, Senator, 28th Senatorial District
The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Assembly Member, 56th Assembly District
Alison Dinmore, Consultant, Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, fax:
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Doug Yoakam, Housing Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus, fax: (916) 414-3681
Erin Sasse, Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)
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