

April 20, 2022

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1410 (Caballero) California Environmental Quality Act: transportation impacts – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Allen,

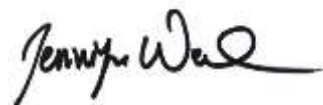
Orange County Business Council (“the Business Council”), the leading voice of business in Orange County, is a dedicated advocate for alleviating the housing crisis and ensuring Californians at all income levels have access to quality housing. SB 1410 (Caballero) is an absolutely crucial bill for modifying vehicle miles traveled (VMT) regulations to stop the discouragement of housing production statewide while preserving the intent of SB 743 (2013). **The Business Council stands in strong support of SB 1410.**

In July 2020, VMT regulations went into effect as a result of SB 743, which instructed the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop an alternative method of analyzing traffic impacts of new developments in urbanized infill areas. Though this was intended to apply only to urban areas, it since expanded and now jeopardizes homeownership statewide through a VMT formula that requires governments to apply a fee, added to the cost of the homes, based on the estimated daily trips of future homeowners. Since taking effect, fees have increased by tens of thousands to millions of dollars. Policies like this directly counter the state’s attempts to remedy the housing crisis, putting homeownership even further out of reach—and barring many residents from receiving the generational, transformative wealth and opportunity homeownership provides.

SB 1410 would limit VMT regulations to Transit Priority Areas (TPAs) in urbanized areas. This maintains the original vision of SB 743 without punishing homeowners and renters who must commute to their jobs. Rural and suburban developments, which serve as important and necessary pieces of solving the housing puzzle, would in turn become more attainable. If California will seriously make progress towards solving the housing crisis, the policies proposed by SB 1410 must be implemented.

For these reasons, the Business Council respectfully urges the Committee to vote YES on SB 1410.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs

cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Author