

I oppose removing Design Review as proposed in the SB974 –1 Amendment “Section 12 (5)” on page 10 and “Section 13 (5)” on page 11. We often relegate our most vulnerable community members to the worst kind of housing, when we should treat these neighbors with dignity by providing safe, convenient, highly functional, and attractive housing.

Buildings that will be with us for generations have a major impact on our communities and they need to be well designed. Community members are more likely to embrace denser development when they are confident it will function within the community, and they are certain to oppose development when they fear how it will look and the negative impacts it may have.

I understand that we need more housing, and I recognize the important role state government plays in setting broad policy and goals and in providing funding. But more housing with regulations imposed by the heavy hand of state government that eliminates local self-determination is poor governance. I urge you to delete the provision that eliminates city’s ability to have development meet design review standards.