May 15, 2019

California State Senate Committee on Appropriations:

Hon. Anthony J. Portantino, Chair senator.portantino@senate.ca.gov

Hon. Patricia C. Bates, Vice-Chair senator.bates@senate.ca.gov

Hon. Steven Bradford senator.bradford@senate.ca.gov

Hon. Jerry Hill senator.hill@senate.ca.gov

Hon. Brian W. Jones senator.jones@senate.ca.gov

Hon. Bob Wieckowski senator.wieckowski@senate.ca.gov

Re: Senate Bill 50 (Wiener); hearing date May 16, 2019 (suspension file); OPPOSED

Dear Committee Chair Portantino, Vice-Chair Bates and members Bradford, Hill, Jones and Wieckowski:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a regional coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils from Los Angeles Council Districts 5 and 11 (the Westside of Los Angeles). WRAC’s member-councils together represent almost half a million residents and stakeholders.

A super-majority of WRAC member-councils have passed, in substance, motions opposing SB 50. Our overarching concern is the bill’s circumvention of local control over city planning & zoning decisions, and its failure to substantively address the shortage of affordable housing. The bill seemingly ignores the serious efforts of the City of Los Angeles to address housing needs consistent with local zoning rules. We respectfully urge the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to vote “No” on sending SB 50 from the suspense file to the full Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maryam Zar

Chair, Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc: Hon. Ben Allen, Senator (District 26) senator.allen@sen.ca.gov

 Hon. Holly Mitchell, Senator (District 30) senator.mitchell@sen.ca.gov

 Hon. Richard Bloom, Assemblymember (District 50) richard.bloom@asm.ca.gov

 Mark McKenzie, Committee Staff Director mark.mckenzie@sen.ca.gov

 Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles. mayor.garcetti@lacity.org