



May 13, 2019

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 State Capitol, Room 2206
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 526 (Allen) Healthy Communities - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our organizations, we are pleased to support SB 526 by Senator Allen, which takes critical steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and land use. Pursuant to Senator Allen’s 2017 legislation, SB 150, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) reviewed how regions were doing in meeting their regional emissions reduction targets. CARB’s Progress Report was released in November 2018 and found that regions are not on track to meet emissions reduction targets. The Progress Report was a wake-up call that, despite strong progress in reducing emissions from the electric sector, emissions from the transportation sector continue to increase. In order to meet the state’s climate goals, we have much more to do to reduce emissions from driving, also known as “vehicle miles traveled” or “VMT.”

In 2008, the Legislature passed, and Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 375 by Senator Steinberg. This landmark law was the first of its kind to address climate change through land use and transportation. SB 375 required regions to adopt “Sustainable Communities Strategies” that take climate and VMT into

account, and to better plan for population growth. SB 526 takes the common-sense next steps we need to improve upon the strong foundation laid in 2008.

SB 526 addresses the key conclusions of the Progress Report and requires the creation of an interagency working group to develop and implement a state Mobility Action Plan (MAP) for Healthy Communities to ensure the state's environmental, equity, climate, health and housing goals are being met. This MAP for Healthy Communities will include stakeholder involvement through at least four public meetings throughout the state, and broad representation among relevant state agencies, including the State Department of Public Health. The work of this panel would be communicated to the Legislature by December 31, 2020 and updated every four years.

The bill would also create a review and data collection process to ensure that CARB has adequate information to evaluate regional plans and whether transportation investments made within those plans result in increased or decreased VMT.

In order to secure the public health, equity, affordable housing and transportation and mobility choices envisioned by SB 375, and to ensure California remains on track to reducing harmful pollution and attaining health-protective climate standards, real changes must be made to our transportation system and investments. SB 526 helps California reduce climate pollution from the transportation and land use sector, a key component to meeting our statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Please vote "AYE" on this bill when it is heard in Appropriations Committee. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

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CC: Senator Allen