



April 7, 2021

Hon. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair
Assembly Committee on Local Government
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: OPPOSE AB 1401 (Friedman) as amended 4/5/21

Dear Chair,

On behalf of Livable California, a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization with over 10,000 followers who support the self-determination of local government and advocate for truly affordable housing, we strongly oppose AB 1401 as a state overreach into what should be the affairs of local government, that level of government which is closest to the people.

AB 1401 would prohibit local governments from requiring minimum automobile parking requirements for all developments within a ½ mile walking distance of public transit. Should this legislation be adopted, it could lead to housing, commercial, and other development projects without providing a single parking space for automobiles. This intrusion into every one of California's 482 cities and 58 counties is an over-the-top, one-size-fits-all, top-down mandate that would destroy the economic viability and livability of these jurisdictions and their neighborhoods.

Who would build a housing project or a commercial shopping center without any parking? What finance institutions would lend money for developing such a project? Who would want to live or work in such a project? What elderly or infirm people would want to walk half a mile to buy their groceries and carry them back ½ mile to where they live? Who wants to live in a neighborhood with streets clogged with on street parking? The answer: nobody.

AB 1401 is an assault on the disabled community, the elderly, families with children, and working-class people that need their cars and trucks to make a living. Most transit users also have cars for all the necessary errands of life. This bill reduces the livability of neighborhoods and our quality of life.

AB 1401 seems to be an effort to force people to use public transit, one of the super spreaders of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. If anything, this bill could result in generating more public opposition to any new transit stops if they result in these types of impacts to people's neighborhoods.

Livable California urges your Committee to OPPOSE AB 1401.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of Livable California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RH", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Hall, President

T Keith Gurnee, Member

Carey White, Member

Isaiah Madison, Member