

CITY OF



ONTARIO

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ONTARIO

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March 27, 2019

SCOTT OCHOA
CITY MANAGER

SHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERK

JAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

The Honorable Toni Atkins
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 451 – Notice of Support

Dear President pro Tempore Atkins,

On behalf of the City of Ontario, I am writing to express our support for your Senate Bill 451, which would create a much needed state tax credit program for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic structures. Senate Bill 451 would provide an annual \$50 million tax credit beginning January 1, 2021 and ending January 1, 2026 to incentivize investment.

Due to the City of Ontario's long and rich history in the Inland Empire region, we have accumulated a number of symbolic and historical structures that are now in need of restoration. The creation of financial incentives will help enlist private assistance to bring our historical landmarks back to their former glory, and repurpose them so they meet the needs of the current generation of residents. Throughout the years the City has made numerous attempts to reuse historic buildings for new entertainment districts and residential projects, creating compact walkable communities. The passage of Senate Bill 451 would help equip Ontario with the tools necessary to continue our efforts of preserving history and strengthening the economic development of the City.

If signed into law, California would join a list of 35 other states that have banded together to conserve history through the enactment of this credit. These states are fostering strong partnerships with the private sector while restoring and celebrating their past. For these reasons the City of Ontario strongly supports Senate Bill 451.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Leon
Mayor

c: The Honorable Senator Connie M. Leyva
The Honorable Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
Senate Governance and Finance Committee