

CITY OF



ONTARIO

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September 12, 2019

SCOTT OCHOA
CITY MANAGER

SHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERK

JAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 5 (Beall/McGuire/Portantino) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Ontario is writing to urge you to sign Senate Bill 5 (Beall/McGuire/Portantino), the Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program. This legislation gives cities the tools to improve communities while acknowledging the need for flexible funding to spur housing construction and revitalize communities.

The elimination of redevelopment in 2011 created a huge deficit in revitalization resources throughout California, including an annual loss of \$1 billion in funding for low- and moderate-income housing. Senate Bill 5 would create a new local-State partnership to provide up to \$2 billion annually to fund State approved affordable housing, infrastructure, and economic development projects that also support State policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand transit oriented development (TOD), address poverty, and revitalize neighborhoods.

The City of Ontario has been extremely active in searching for alternative funding sources to revitalize our Downtown, increase housing opportunities at all income levels, and incentivize businesses to bring jobs into our City. However, since funding is scarce and competition is fierce, securing investment has been difficult. If fairly distributed, Senate Bill 5 can help kick-start a wave of investment for the Inland Empire region and help cities achieve the various goals set by the State.

With a multi-billion dollar budget surplus, the time is right for the State to restore more robust financing mechanisms that support local efforts to build more affordable housing, provide essential infrastructure, and create opportunities in underserved communities.

For these reasons, the City of Ontario respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 5.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul S. Leon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

Paul S. Leon
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Senator Connie M. Leyva
The Honorable Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez