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Assembly Local Government Committee % hank.brady@asm.ca.gov

June 5, 2021

Re: Oppose SB 9

Dear Legislators:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952 represents 46 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains and their 250,000 constituents. Our mission is to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles. At our meeting on March 16, the Federation voted to oppose SB 9 as it is currently written.

SB 9 does not require that a single unit of affordable housing be built. While Los Angeles is in desperate need of affordable housing, it has plenty of expensive housing. The Hollywood area has seen massive housing projects built; however they are all luxury units that few can afford. As a result approximately 22% of those units are vacant. Since many of these buildings required tearing down existing affordable housing, the net result was a *loss* of affordable housing units.

Fire is an increasing danger in the state. Most fires are caused by human interaction. For that reason many are recommending that no additional housing be built in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Any housing densification bill should expressly exempt building in VHFHSZ.

Los Angeles has many miles of commercial corridors where affordable housing could be built. Those areas tend to be near public transportation which makes them better suited to affordable housing.

SB 9 would undermine local control of city planning departments.

SB 9 can best be described as a gift to developers. It has nothing to do with providing more affordable housing. The Hillside Federation urges you to stop SB 9 now.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

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