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# California Association for Local Economic Development

May 16, 2018

Dan Carrigg  
League of California Cities  
1400 K Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, California CA

RE: Oppose Tax Fairness, Transparency, and Accountability Act of 2018

Dear Dan,

The California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) strongly opposes the Tax Fairness, Transparency, and Accountability Act of 2018 and stands alongside with the League of California Cities and other partners. This act would obstruct the beneficial work that local governments do on a daily basis and impact their ability to conduct economic development activities.

The Tax Fairness, Transparency, and Accountability Act would eliminate the current authority of cities and counties to enact a tax for general purposes with approval from a majority vote and would replace it with a two-thirds vote. Furthermore, the ability for local governments to apply fees to services, permits, licenses, etc. would be significantly affected. By doing so, these rules would detrimentally affect economic development tools used to support businesses, provide revenue to pay for services, and to improve communities. Local economies, small businesses, and special districts will be negatively impacted by the act as well. The act would also void tax measures passed in 2018 unless they were approved by a two-thirds vote.

Additionally, local governments would be in a difficult position to hold entities that are responsible for destructive or hazardous behavior accountable. Lastly, local governments' ability and flexibility to fund solutions to problems that are urgent in their communities will be restricted.

With over 800 members practicing economic development in California, CALED is the voice for the profession and is invested in standing with local communities throughout California. CALED thanks you for your leadership and we strongly oppose the Tax Fairness, Transparency, and Accountability Act. If you have further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Gurbax Sahota  
President & CEO