***AB 2357 (Ting)***

***Sample Oppose Letter***

May XX, 2022

The Honorable Philip Ting

State Capitol, Ste. 8230

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

The (Name of City/County or name of individual, firm, public entity) regrets that it must **Oppose** your AB 2357, which undermines the ability of local agencies to conduct appropriate economic development activities on properties they acquire or otherwise own, by expanding the scope of authority for Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review “*any action to dispose of land,”* which would include properties retained for agency use, properties declared “exempt surplus,” and properties that local agencies are authorized by other laws to acquire and dispose of for economic development purposes.

The implementation of the Surplus Lands Act (SLA), including HCD’s recent guidelines, have created immense delays and difficulties for local government agencies dealing with the control and disposal of their local properties. Regrettably, AB 2357 would compound those difficulties by expanding state reviews and delays affecting properties retained for agency use and declared exempt surplus.

*Additional Reasons for Opposition: Are there recent examples of where HCD’s review under the SLA stalled a worthwhile project in your community?*

Rather than expanding the scope of the SLA in this form, the Legislature should hold special hearings to more thoroughly and properly evaluate the difficulties, bureaucratic delays and unintended consequences caused by implementation of the existing law on local agency activities, including addressing unresolved conflicts with other laws and state policy priorities the Legislature has enacted that affect the disposal of local agency property.

For these reasons, (Name of City/County or name of individual, firm, public entity) regrets that it must respectfully **Oppose** AB 2357. Please feel free to contact me at (XXX) 000-0000, or Email, whenever needed.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Cc: Senator Anna Caballero, Chair, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance

Senator Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Committee on Housing

Members, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance

Members, Senate Committee on Housing

Gurbax Sahota, Chief Executive Officer, California Association for Local Economic Development

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