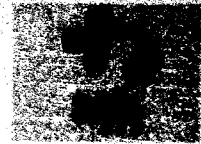


7.i. Oppose Letters – Members/Caucus

No relevant documents found

7.ii. Oppose Letters – Organizations/Local Gov't



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September 11, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1473 (Calderon) State Green Building Standard – REQUEST VETO

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to veto SB 1473 by Senator Calderon because it would give inappropriately broad authority to the Building Standards Commission (BSC) to develop and adopt the California Green Building Standards Code (CGBSC). This authority would allow the BSC to exclude expert state agencies such as, the California Energy Commission, CalEPA, State Water Board, Air Resources Board, and the Integrated Waste Management Board, which are already working on various aspects of green building. The expert knowledge these agencies provide is essential for a robust, effective and powerful state green building standard.

SB 1473 would undermine other agencies' authority to develop building standards for the green building code by granting the Building Standards Commission the authority to "adopt, approve, codify, update, and publish green building standards" for occupancies which "no state agency has the authority or expertise to propose green building standards..." Considering no state agency currently has statutory authority to develop green building standards, and "expertise" is not defined and subject to challenge, this bill effectively gives the BSC total authority over the California Green Building Standards Code, including sections well outside their scope.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is the regulatory body responsible for developing the energy code and its triennial revisions. The Warren Alquist Act directs the CEC to faithfully "Prescribe, by regulation, energy conservation design standards for new residential and new nonresidential buildings." With this mandate the CEC has developed one of the most robust, stringent and effective energy codes in the country. SB 1473 would allow the BSC to develop energy efficiency portions of the CGBSC without input from the CEC.

Like many other agencies working on components of green building, the CEC is the appropriately skilled agency to develop energy efficiency standards and has a proven 30 year track record of success in reducing energy demand. Efficiency is the most cost-effective way to meet the state's energy needs and reduce global warming pollution to help meet the goals of AB 32. The CEC should retain and execute its mandate and have clear authority in developing energy efficiency standards for the CGBSC.

Developing a California Green Building Standard Code is an emerging area that involves many stakeholders and agencies. California will benefit from a fully-developed state-wide green building code; unfortunately, SB 1473 is not the appropriate vehicle to provide the direction for future development. We therefore urge you to veto SB 1473. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rome
Natural Resources Defense Council

Bonnie Holmes-Gen
American Lung Association of California

Jim Metropulos
Sierra Club California

Tina Andolina
Planning and Conservation League

Bernadette Del Chiaro
Environment California

Lauren Navarro
Environmental Defense Fund

Mary Luevano
Global Green