



June 25, 2021

The Honorable Assemblymember Laura Friedman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1401 (Friedman) – Residential and Commercial Development: Parking Requirements – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Friedman:

Our organizations are dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Californians by curbing pollution, climate change and destruction of our natural and working lands. We write to express our support for your bill, AB 1401, which will support healthy communities by eliminating local minimum parking requirements for both residential and commercial buildings near public transit.

Despite California's recent gains in reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable energy, transportation emissions continue to grow and undermine our state's climate and air quality goals.

Today, the transportation sector makes up more than 40% of the state's total greenhouse gas emissions¹, presenting the most considerable hurdle to achieving our climate goals. In order to meet California's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030,

¹ <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/ghg-inventory-data>

advances in electric vehicles and efforts to reduce the use of fossil-fuel powered cars must be matched with the increased use of public transportation, biking and walking. The California Air Resources Board has determined that California needs to reduce vehicle-miles traveled per capita by 25% by 2035 to stay on track to meet our state's climate goals.²

The excessive amounts of parking required by local governments encourages more people to own cars and drive alone, which increases VMT, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and more.³ Even as the state invests billions in rail, electric buses, bike lanes, and bus rapid transit to provide affordable and low-carbon mobility, these investments are being undermined by local parking requirements in new housing and job centers – even those near transit. This is why the legislature must act and pass AB 1401.

At the same time, unnecessary parking minimums make housing more expensive, even for people who do not own a vehicle, and make it harder to build infill housing that promotes walking, biking and transit use while reducing urban sprawl. AB 1401 will encourage and create healthier, more transit-oriented communities, and stimulate the greater reliance on public transit and walking that we need to reduce car reliance and meet our climate goals.

It is for these reasons we support your bill AB 1401 and urge your colleagues to vote AYE.

Sincerely,

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Mobility and Climate Advocate, NRDC

Julia Randolph
Policy and Outreach Associate, Coalition for Clean Air

David Diaz, MPH
Executive Director, Active SGV

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² https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-01/2017_sp_vmt_reductions_jan19.pdf

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-01-12/study-the-strongest-evidence-yet-that-abundant-parking-causes-more-driving>

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