



April 13, 2021

The Honorable Scott Weiner
Chair, Senate Housing Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 9 (Atkins) - OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Weiner,

On behalf of the San Bernardino County Associated Governments (SBCOG), I write to inform your committee of SBCOG's opposition to Senate Bill 9 (Atkins) which would require a local government to ministerially approve a housing development containing two residential units in single-family residential zones. Additionally, this measure would require local governments to ministerially approve urban lot splits.

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing California. Affordably priced homes are out of reach for many people and housing is not being built fast enough to meet the current or projected needs of people living in the state. Cities lay the groundwork for housing production by planning and zoning new projects in their communities based on extensive public input and engagement, state housing laws, and the needs of the building industry.

While we appreciate the desire to pursue a housing production proposal, SB 9 as currently drafted will unfortunately not spur the needed housing construction in a manner that supports local flexibility, decision making, and community input. State-driven ministerial or by-right housing approval processes fail to recognize the extensive public engagement associated with developing and adopting zoning ordinances and housing elements that are certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

For the reasons stated above, SBCOG opposes SB 9 (Atkins). If you have any questions regarding SBCOG's position on this issue, please contact Otis Greer, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs, at (909) 884-8276.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Navarro
President, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority