

California State Senate

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September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 1486 (Ting)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly 1486, which expands Surplus Land Act requirements for local agencies, requires local governments to include specified information relating to surplus lands in their housing elements and annual progress reports (APRs), and requires the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to establish a database of surplus lands, as specified.

Government at all levels needs to be a better steward of the land it owns. With millions of acres and thousands of assets in government portfolios, officials should take steps to identify what they own, determine whether government or private ownership is the most effective and efficient use of it, and streamline the efficient transfer of all unnecessary or under-used real property. More assets being sold to the private sector increases proper management, encourages economic growth, and generates—instead of consuming—tax dollars.

Unfortunately, AB 1486 imposes burdensome requirements and restrictions that will delay property sales, reduce the value that local governments can get for their land, and increases the red tape that the agencies and potential buyers must wade through before they can complete a transaction. By doing so, AB 1486 potentially undermines the services that local agencies provide to their constituents: if public agencies can't get the maximum sale price because of constraints on public land, they'll have less money to put towards other important programs.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove".

Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader