



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 8, 2015

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Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 379

Dear Senator Jackson,

The Little Hoover Commission supports Senate Bill 379, the measure you have authored that would require the general plan safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to that city or county. The Commission supports this measure based on recommendations the Commission made in its July 2014 report, *Governing California Through Climate Change*.

In its 2014 report, the Commission found that California's 482 incorporated cities and 58 counties have unique responsibilities at the forefront of climate change adaptation in California. Cities and counties are first responders, bearing the heaviest burdens of emergency response and recovery during disasters and disruption. They have broad authority over land use, determining what gets permitted and built – and where. They also have the prime responsibility to plan, finance and build local infrastructure such as streets, sewers and wastewater treatment plants. Many of California's governments have just begun to grapple with the capacity issues, conflicts and complexities that climate change will present. All need new appropriate strategies for adaptation and resiliency.

The Commission recommended that governments at all levels build climate risk assessment and adaptation into their long-range planning and embed adaptation into local general plans and infrastructure reviews. The inclusion of climate adaptation and resiliency strategies into the safety element of the general plan will stimulate better land use decisions, and enable local officials to develop targets and responses that resolve climate adaptation issues and avoid potentially costly and unnecessary actions.

Senate Bill 379 will provide a necessary stimulus for cities and counties to prepare and adapt to climate change. For these reasons, the Commission supports this measure.

We are happy to work with you and offer our support as this bill moves through the legislative process. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission