DATE, 2018

The Honorable YOUR LEGISLATOR

Senate Appropriations Committee

State Capitol Building, Room ####

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2681 (Seismic safety: potentially vulnerable buildings)**

**NOTICE OF OPPOSITION**

Dear YOUR LEGISLATOR:

[your agency] regretfully opposes AB 2681(Nazarian). This bill would require each building department, of a city or county, to create an inventory of potentially vulnerable buildings within its jurisdiction, based on age and other publicly available information. This inventory would then be submitted to the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for review of compliance standards.

[your agency] appreciates the good intentions of this bill, and the efforts of the Seismic Resiliency Initiative workgroup. However; we are strongly opposed to a statewide mandate contained within the bill, and feel that such a universal requirement will pose major compliance problems for many local jurisdictions. Local California building departments reflect the diversity of our great state, and many are too small to carry out the provisions set forth in AB 2681. Further, adding a new system and program to an already burdened department will create staffing and financial difficulties. The entire system and process created by AB 2681 is an onerous task to be passed on to local government.

As of the July 2 amendments, the bill has not identified a funding mechanism for this program, or its maintenance, which places an additional burden on the local building departments and building owners. Currently, the language only calls for Cal OES to *identify funding* instead of actually having to secure a funding source for this statewide program. Securing this funding source would be crucial for local governments to finance such a large undertaking. The way the language is currently drafted allows for Cal OES to identify funding, even if such funding is unavailable for this program.

[your agency] supports local jurisdictions that have adopted their own seismic ordinances. These ordinances allow building officials to modify local standards to meet the needs of the region and the community. This is in compliance with the six-point policy of California Building Officials, which maintains that the state should establish minimum standards and local entities can apply more stringent standards based on their discretion.

Sincerely,

[insert e-signature]

Your Name

Title

Agency

cc: The Honorable Adrin Nazarian

Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee