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 916.457.1103

 [www.calbo.org](http://www.calbo.org)

 1111 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Christopher M. Ward  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 6 – OPPOSITION**

Dear Assemblymember Ward:

With regret, we write to inform you of our **OPPOSITION** to Assembly Bill 6 (AB 6). As you know, AB 6 would, among other things, require the Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) to convene a working group to research and consider amendments to residential building standards. We appreciate your willingness to hear our concerns as summarized below.

By way of background, California Building Officials (CALBO) is the organization of local building departments. CALBO members are primarily responsible for enforcing building code requirements in an estimated 95% of the buildings constructed in California. Accordingly, we have a solid understanding of building and life safety codes, their applicability, and overall enforcement of such standards. We see ourselves as an integral part of local government and seek to promote the best for California communities.

Multifamily housing, and the plan check, inspection, and ensuing approval process is already complicated. Local officials face setbacks due to the limited availability of those capable of drawing and submitting plans to meet the current definition(s) of multifamily housing. Expanding this definition would lead to even further delays when it comes to increased multifamily housing construction – which is contrary to your stated intent.

Although AB 6 is currently limited in scope to a working group to assess these multifamily residential standards, we can see the policy intent behind the effort. Although we applaud your efforts to increase housing supply in California with new construction – a change in how multifamily is defined and approved will not meet this stated effort. For those reasons, we cannot support AB 6.

We continue to appreciate your thoughtful, and sometimes contrarian approach to housing, which includes the engagement of our organization. CALBO remains committed to our shared goal of expanded safe, affordable, and sustainable housing in California.

Sincerely yours,

  
**Matthew Wheeler, DPPD**  
Executive Director

CC: Assembly Committee on Housing & Community Development