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California State Senate

SENATOR
JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



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September 20, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Requested Veto of AB 890 (Medina)

Dear Governor Brown:

I would like to respectfully request that you veto AB 890 (Medina) that strips away the rights of local citizens by prohibiting several types of local initiatives.

Under AB 890, local voters would no longer have the ability to propose their own laws as a backstop to the local legislative process. The ability for citizens to place their own laws on the ballot and vote on them has long been a valued check on the powers of local residents in California, and taking this right away would be a tremendous setback for local democracy.

As you are well aware, there have been far too many back room deals struck with respect to local developments in the past several years. A significant reason there have not been more could reasonably be attributed to the fact that local citizens have had the ability to put their own local land use measures on the ballot to be voted on by local citizens.

We elect our local city councils and boards of supervisors to represent us. But we do not elect them to hold total dominion over us. The reason our system, as dysfunctional as it may often appear, works is that our citizens have a right to take legislation into their own hands through the initiative process.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you veto AB 890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone".

Jeff Stone
State Senator, 28th District