



September 17, 2021

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

Subject: Request for Signature AB 1147 (Friedman) in re: Sustainable Communities

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I am writing to request that you sign Assembly Bill 1147 (Friedman) into law. AB 1147 addresses the need for consistent progress toward healthier and more sustainable land use and transportation as envisioned by Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008), the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection law. Further, signing this bill will advance the vision for healthier communities set in your Executive Order N-19-19.

Largely due to transportation pollution, California is home to the nation's most difficult air pollution challenges, with climate change making the job of cleaning the air more difficult. Poor air quality in the form of ozone and particle pollution is widespread and contributes to asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, lung cancer and a range of health impacts, including approximately 7,500 premature deaths annually in California. Children, seniors, lower-income communities, communities of color and those living with existing health conditions are often at greater risk. In order to achieve health-protective clean air and climate standards, California must accelerate both the shift to non-combustion technologies and improvements in land use and transportation planning to accelerate healthier, more sustainable communities.

To advance progress toward healthier communities, AB 1147 would address the fact that California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection law (SB 375, Steinberg, 2008) is not yielding intended regional climate, health, equity, conservation, and other goals. AB 1147 establishes a consultation process for Metropolitan Planning Organizations if it concludes that a local government's plans and investments interfere with the achievement of regional targets per SB 375. This will support ongoing dialogue between local and regional leaders to discuss actions that can be taken, or barriers to actions that would support healthier communities.

AB 1147 would also support state agency efforts to bring local, regional, and state agencies and stakeholders together to identify barriers to achieving regional climate goals by expanding existing reports by the Strategic Growth Council (per

AB 285, Friedman) and the California Air Resources Board (per SB 150, Allen). These collaborative approaches will support exchange of best practices, identifying barriers, ensure impacted community voices are included in the processes and developing recommendations to advance healthier communities for all Californians as envisioned, but not yet achieved, by SB 375.

In closing, the American Lung Association requests you sign AB 1147 to advance healthier, more sustainable communities. Please contact me with any questions at William.Barrett@lung.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Will Barrett
Senior Director, Clean Air Advocacy