



April 17, 2019

Senator Mike McGuire
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
California State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Portal <https://sgf.senate.ca.gov/>

Re: Oppose- SB 50 (Wiener)

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of Tenants Together, California's statewide organization for renters' rights, I write today in opposition of SB 50 (Wiener). Tenants Together's deep concern is that SB 50, however well-intentioned, will have negative consequences on displacement in marginalized communities with few tenant protections.

Tenants Together is a coalition of 50 local tenant organizations across California working to connect and unite tenant groups statewide, support emerging local tenant organizations, and enact statewide policies that protect and advance the rights of California's 17 million renters. Tenants Together's member organizations unanimously voted to oppose Senate Bill 50.

It is crucial for exclusionary communities that benefited from the redlining of poor people and communities of color to contribute towards eliminating the shortage of affordable housing in California. Our objections are rooted in the concern that SB 50 would enact untested policies upon California's most vulnerable residents: specifically, communities of color and low/moderate income neighborhoods near transit, who are at higher risk for gentrification, displacement, and rising income inequality. The price communities will pay as a result of SB 50 is too high to risk moving forward with SB 50 as it stands.

We stand in solidarity with the more than 50 organizations who signed on to a letter articulating their concerns and proposing constructive amendments, and with our members who oppose SB 50. Tenants Together looks forward to reviewing future proposals that truly address the need for equitable and sustainable affordable housing.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Lupe Arreola
Executive Director
Tenants Together