



League of California Cities-Latino Caucus

June 12, 2013

The Honorable *Lois Wolk*
State Capitol Building, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-323-2304

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RE: AB 667 (Hernández). Land use: development project review: superstores (as amended 03/19/13)
Notice of Opposition

Dear Senator Wolk:

The League of California Cities Latino Caucus is in opposition to AB 667, which would regulate certain local land use decisions by requiring an exhaustive economic impact report to be prepared for a narrow set of projects. Specifically, AB 667 betrays a clear anti-development bias and singles out “superstores” in “economic assistance areas.”

Prior to permitting construction or alteration of any buildings that would create a “superstore” in an “economic assistance area,” a city must find that the superstore will not materially adversely affect the economic welfare of the “impact area” which consists of a five-mile radius around the proposed superstore.

To make this determination, the city must cause to be prepared, at applicant expense, an economic impact report. This lengthy and proscriptive report must assess at least 15 detailed conditions as well as provide estimates of public revenues and public costs. Costs include the costs to public services and facilities including public assistance for potential employees. Furthermore, the report must discuss effects on the goals of the general plan and on the average total vehicle miles traveled by retail customers. Finally, it must address whether mitigation measures are available for any adverse economic impacts.

The League of California Cities Latino Caucus finds it problematic that the state is regulating specified types of development. Community impacts of new development should and always are considered by locally-elected officials. Cities are built to meet the unique needs of their individual communities. It is imperative that each individual city, or the voters within local communities, may reach different conclusions on the extent to which specific enterprises add to or extract value.

AB 667 would fundamentally undermine local land use discretion and authority. For these reasons, the League of California Cities Latino Caucus opposes AB 667. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our position on these issues.

Sincerely,

Diane J. Martinez
President
League of California Cities Latino Caucus

cc. Assembly Member Hernández; FAX: (916) 319-2148
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