

RE: AB 747/Safety First---Building Density Without Preparation Risks Lives

Dear CA State Senator Henry Stern, Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, Mayor Bass, and L.A. City Council Members:

I am writing to urge you to put Public Safety First as the State continues to mandate increased housing density.

Current state laws allow dramatic density increases in neighborhoods that were never designed for such growth—many with narrow streets, limited evacuation routes, aging infrastructure, and high-fire risk. Yet development is proceeding without proof these areas can safely evacuate residents and businesses during an emergency.

AB 747, passed in 2018, required cities to prepare evacuation capacity studies at least every eight years, but the law is mainly ignored. Funding a professional, comprehensive study may be costly, but we should not put a price tag on the safety of those living in L.A.

As there is more density to meet required housing mandates, the State must also help fund these studies so cities can assess their ability to support the continued rush for new housing. The State's budget constraints cannot justify ignoring these necessary and important studies.

Please amend and strengthen AB 747 now to ensure evacuation studies are funded by the State, updated regularly by cities, and deficiencies in infrastructure are addressed and corrected before another emergency strikes. Public safety is the responsibility of the government and must be addressed at the same time as the increased density now permitted for new housing.

Please work to get this done. Our safety and well-being depend on YOU.

Respectfully,

Your Name

Your Address with zip code