



CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

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May 5, 2025

Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

RE: Opposition to AB 893 (Fong) – Housing development projects: objective standards: campus development zone

Dear Honorable Assembly Appropriations Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, we must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 893, which would expand ministerial approval for housing developments located within "campus development zones," removing critical local oversight and community input from the planning process.

While the bill currently applies only to the University of California, California State University, and California Community College systems, it sets a troubling precedent for similar treatment of private institutions. La Verne is home to the University of La Verne, a longstanding private university that plays an integral role in our community. Though we strongly support efforts to increase student housing, those efforts must be balanced with thoughtful planning, infrastructure capacity, and neighborhood compatibility—issues that can only be addressed through local review processes.

Allowing by-right development in designated campus zones—without public hearings or environmental review—undermines the City's ability to manage growth, provide essential services, and ensure developments align with local goals. If this streamlined model is extended to private universities in the future, cities like ours could be left with no tools to manage significant new housing projects that directly impact public infrastructure, safety services, and community character.

AB 893 erodes local control, circumvents CEQA, and opens the door for further legislation that could strip cities of their authority to responsibly plan for housing. We support student housing, but it must occur through a collaborative process that respects local input and ensures sustainable development.

For these reasons, the City of La Verne urges your NO vote on AB 893.

Sincerely,

Tim Hepburn
Mayor