



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

August 18, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 555 (McGuire) Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator:
collection
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Gonzalez,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our respectful OPPOSITION to SB 555 (McGuire). This bill would authorize local agencies to enact an ordinance exclusively delegating their authority to collect transit occupancy taxes to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) and requires a “short-term rental facilitator” to collect such tax from a “purchaser” and transmit it to the CDTFA, which would then send the county’s Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) back to the county.

While SB 555 (McGuire) may provide localities with the ability to surrender their TOT collection duties, it could result in less effective and less transparent TOT collection. The bill could also result in the termination of existing and future voluntary collection agreements.

Any option to contract with CDTFA should be practical and transparent. The provisions in this bill allowing local governments to delegate their authority to collect TOT to the CDTFA may open the door for such delegation of authority to the CDTFA to become mandatory. This could result in overriding local control and taking this authority away from local governments.

The City’s adopted legislative platform clearly states that we need to protect our City’s rights to level and collect TOT from hotels, including hotel intermediaries. While as currently written this is an optional program, there is no guarantee this program would not become mandatory in the future. Therefore, for these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully OPPOSE SB 555 (McGuire).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wunderlich".

Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
 Members and Consultants, Assembly Judiciary Committee
 Members and Consultants, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
 The Honorable Mike McGuire, 2nd Assembly District
 The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
 The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
 Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange