



The Honorable Gavin Newsom
California Governor
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 98 (CARRILLO) – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beaumont, I am writing to respectfully request your veto on Assembly Bill (AB) 98, which would limit new or expanded logistics use developments and warehouses on existing and rezoned industrial sites within 900 feet of sensitive receptors unless specific standards are met.

AB 98 usurps critical decision-making authority from local governments by imposing statewide mandates on where warehouses can be located and how they must operate. The bill includes stringent buffer zone requirements and mandatory truck route provisions, which severely limit the availability of land suitable for logistics use, even in areas already zoned for industrial purposes. In densely populated regions, these restrictions could make it nearly impossible to find viable sites for new or expanding logistics facilities. This not only hinders new developments but also forces existing facilities to consider relocation out of state.

Critically, AB 98 strips local governments of the flexibility to balance economic development with environmental and community health concerns based on their unique needs. By overriding local control, the bill undermines the ability of communities to effectively manage growth and development, leading to unintended consequences that could harm local economies.

The bill's requirement for logistics centers to meet stringent zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) standards by 2028 is unfeasible given the current state of California's energy infrastructure and ZEV availability. The existing backlog in grid interconnections and insufficient readiness for such an increase in power demand make these standards impossible to meet within the proposed timeframe. We support ZEV technology and have encouraged supportive infrastructure development as well as its use in our community, but the requirements of AB 98 place an undue burden on businesses. In some cases, the bill could prevent projects from moving forward due to the limited availability of electricity from providers.

Additionally, the bill's aggregate square footage threshold (250,000 square feet) is cumulative, meaning that even small, phased expansions could trigger costly and restrictive requirements. AB 98 utilizes an overly broad and generic definition of "logistic use," which can also define industries beyond warehouses. Businesses constantly move and store goods, cargo, and products within their facilities and AB 98 does not differentiate between a building used solely for manufacturing and one that is used for multiple purposes. This approach unfairly penalizes businesses that grow


responsibly over time, disincentivizing expansion and economic development within the City and the state.

AB 98 would also require all local governments to update their circulation elements logistic use development information, including truck routes, signage, parking, and idling, and would authorize the Attorney General to fine local jurisdictions \$50,000 every six months if they are not in compliance. This would be required by January 1, 2026 for local governments located in Riverside County, which is where the City is located. The bill would require us to make these updates within one year of the statute coming into effect and would result in costly fines if not completed.

Further, the bill is not abundantly clear that cities can disapprove a logistic use facility development from moving forward. Rather, the bill thrusts extensive provisions onto local governments with no regard to the actual development of logistic uses and warehouses in their communities. AB 98 unduly restricts and removes local control by stripping the City of its zoning and land use authority, constricts the City in tailoring public health protections to communities affected by qualifying logistics use, and imposes costly, unfunded mandates for local governments.

In closing, we are concerned about how this bill was developed. The Legislative session ended on August 31. However, this bill proposal which is aiming to fundamentally overhaul local plans and has the potential to disrupt a vital area of our local economy was pushed through in the final hours of a two-year legislative cycle. It is concerning that this measure had no chance for meaningful public input and stakeholder engagement, and essentially no discussion or debate before being voted on. Additionally, several stakeholder groups that will be heavily impacted by this legislation were excluded from the discussions leading up to the introduction of the measure, including environmental justice nonprofits, local governments, and business associations. These actions run counter to the basic tenants of cultivating a transparent and accessible government. Legislating without due diligence in meaningful participatory policymaking and leveraging the state's convoluted policy process to push through unbalanced, one-size-fits-all policies increase the public's distrust in their government and their elected representatives and result in policies that are not reflective of community needs, priorities, and values.

For these reasons, we must respectfully request your veto on AB 98. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Dane Hutchings or Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely, 

David Fenn
Mayor, City of Beaumont

CC: The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Senate District 23
The Honorable Greg Wallis, Assembly District 47
Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom