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June 11, 2021

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Skinner and Chair Ting,

California Building Officials (CALBO) is proud to support a budget appropriation of \$20 million to provide local jurisdictions with grants and technical assistance for automated permitting systems for residential solar energy systems if a respective jurisdiction chooses to do so voluntarily. CALBO believes that this appropriation would provide local building departments the opportunity to support California's clean energy goals across the state in a way that is productive, safe, and open to local jurisdictions if they so choose to take advantage of these opportunities.

CALBO is founded upon the principle that local California governments must have the ability to make changes and implement programs at the local level. By providing funding opportunities for this automated technology, local building departments can decide if their local city, county, or city and county can benefit from these grant programs if it best fits their geographic uniqueness and resource availability of their respective jurisdiction. CALBO believes that accomplishing California's laudable goals relative to climate change is best handled at the local level and this appropriation would allow local building departments to do just that.

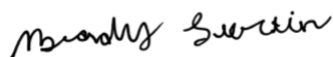
CALBO has worked for decades on prudent and enforceable legislation that will meet the need of California to achieve its green energy goals. As part of these efforts in California, some local building departments charge little to no fees on solar permitting in their respective communities to homeowners who wish to

move to residential solar energy systems for their homes. By providing funding for an opportunity to promote solar energy in California, local jurisdictions can begin a locally based pilot project on new technologies available to expedite solar permitting and comply with the requirements in Assembly Bill 2188 (Muratsuchi, 2014). This bill required local governments to adopt an expedited permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems by September 30, 2015. CALBO has observed that local governments continue to struggle with the implementation of the bill, but this appropriation would help increase the compliance rate in California.

Additionally, this grant program would allow local governments to find technology that best suits each local jurisdiction in their efforts to comply with current legislation. CALBO wants to be clear that we do not endorse or recommend SolarApp as the solution but would like to provide the option for individual jurisdictions who believe that this technology could benefit their community. By providing more sources of funding for new technology, our members could voluntarily participate in this program as they see fit for their local community. CALBO has full faith in its members to find which programs promote the highest regard of public safety for the permitting and plan check of residential solar energy systems in each respective jurisdiction, and this allotment of funds would allow them to consider one potential alternative technology available for use by the building department to help make their jobs safe, efficient, and effective.

This appropriation is a necessary step to ensure California continues to address climate change safely and at the local government's own pace. CALBO respectfully urges support on this budget appropriation. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 208-2582 or bguertin@calbo.org.

Sincerely,



Brady Guertin
Public Affairs Manager