



August 29, 2024

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

**RE: SB 768 (Caballero) California Environmental Quality Act: Department of Housing and Community Development: vehicle miles traveled: study.
As Enrolled on August 29, 2024 – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), respectfully request your signature on SB 768 (Caballero), which tasks the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), in consultation with local governments and other interested parties to conduct a study on how vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is used as a metric for measuring transportation impacts of housing projects pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Counties and Cities recognize that climate change and the release of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere have the potential to dramatically impact our environment, land use decisions, transportation networks, and the economy. It is of statewide interest to provide for a balanced, seamless, and multi-modal transportation system on a planned and coordinated manner, consistent with social, economic, political, and environmental goals of the state.

SB 768 will task HCD with analyzing the differences in the availability and feasibility of mitigation measures to housing projects for vehicle miles traveled in rural, suburban, urban and low vehicle miles traveled areas, and report back to the Legislature by January 2028.

Transportation systems must be fully integrated with planned land use; support the lifestyles desired by people; and be compatible with the environment by

considering GHG emissions, air and noise pollution, aesthetics, ecological factors, cost benefit analyses, and energy goals.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your signature on SB 768. If you need additional information, please contact do not hesitate to contact Mark Neuburger at mneuburger@counties.org, John Kennedy at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org, and Damon Conklin at dconklin@calcities.org.

Respectfully,



Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



John Kennedy
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Damon Conklin
Legislative Representative
League of California Cities

CC: Grant Mack, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
The Honorable Senator Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District