



June 9, 2026

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1738 (Carrillo) State Housing Law: remote inspections.
Notice of OPPOSITION (AS of 5/18/26)

Dear Chair Durazo,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) regrettably must oppose **AB 1738 (Carrillo)**, which would require local agencies to offer remote inspections for specific building permits or a subset of inspections in single- or two-family dwelling units by July 1, 2027.

Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, also known as the California Building Code, establishes the standards that state and local governments must enforce to ensure public health and safety in residential construction once a permit is approved. Local governments are responsible for inspecting development projects and ensuring compliance with these standards, using inspection methods that best meet local conditions and community needs. These methods may include in-person inspections, remote inspections, or a combination of both. Many jurisdictions use remote inspections when appropriate, and current law allows local agencies to implement them as they see fit. Cal Cities understands that for some jurisdictions, this approach is beneficial, while others may not see the same value.

AB 1738 would require all local governments to provide a remote inspection option for a subset of building permits by July 1, 2027, regardless of local best practices, community preferences, or geographic and staffing challenges. While some jurisdictions utilized remote inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic, not all local agencies adopted this approach, and others have since determined that in-person inspections are more effective for ensuring compliance and safety in their communities.

By mandating a uniform inspection option statewide, this measure would undermine local decision-making and disregard the flexibility cities need to administer building and safety programs effectively. This flexibility allows local governments to tailor inspection practices to geographic realities, staffing



capacity, technology infrastructure, and the nature of the type of project being inspected.

For these reasons, Cal Cities regrestfully must oppose **AB 1738 (Carrillo)**. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at bguertin@calcities.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brady Guertin".

Brady Guertin
Legislative Advocate

Cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Members, Senate Local Government Committee