



CITY OF CARSON

March 15, 2017

Hon. Evan Low
Elections and Redistricting Committee, Chair
1020 N St, Room 365
Sacramento, CA 95814

Hon. Jay Obernolte
State Capitol, Rm. 4116
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 195 (Obernolte)

Dear Chair Low and Assemblyman Obernolte:

I write to you in support of the transparency provided to voters by Assembly Bill 195 (as amended). This important legislative fix will ensure that when voters are asked to approve a tax increase, the ballot label will include the tax rate, duration and estimated revenue to be generated.

This last November the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) placed before the voters of Los Angeles County an annual \$860,000,000 sales tax increase through Measure M. The plain language of new Election Code § 13119(b) requires the ballot label for proposed tax increases include “the amount of money to be raised annually and the rate and duration of the tax to be levied.” However, the proposed ballot label from MTA did not include the fact that Measure M was an annual \$860,000,000 sales tax increase. A coalition including the Cities of Carson, Norwalk, Torrance, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, Rancho Palos Verdes, Commerce and the I-5 Consortium of Cities Joint Power Authority promptly filed a lawsuit seeking a court order that the Measure M ballot label provide the transparency required by the new law. Voters deserve this information so they can make an informed decision. In a surprising trial court decision, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge held that the new transparency requirements only applied to tax measures proposed by citizens and did not apply to tax measures proposed by local agencies.

Exhibit No. 1

I believe voters deserve full transparency in ballot labels when voting on proposed tax increases, regardless of whether citizens or local agencies propose the tax increase. I lend my full support to the passage of Assembly Bill 195 (as amended).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AL R". The letters are stylized and connected.

Albert Robles,
Mayor

cc: Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Lula Davis-Holmes, Carson City Council
Honorable Councilmember Elito M. Santarina, Carson City Council
Honorable Councilmember Jawane Hilton, Carson City Council
Honorable Councilmember Cedric L. Hicks, Sr., Carson City Council
Lori Barber, Elections and Redistricting Committee, Secretary
Daryl Thomas, Republican Caucus Policy Consultant