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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS****SOLANO  
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April 4, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
Chairwoman, Senate Local Government Committee  
1021 O St., Ste. 4710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: OPPOSE – SB 707 (Durazo) Open Meetings, Meeting and Teleconference Requirements**

Dear Chairwoman Durazo,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in respectful opposition the provisions of the of SB 707 (Durazo) that create implementation and cost burdens that would be burdensome and unfunded. While Solano County appreciates and supports the provisions in the measure that afford the County an extension of the statutory sunset date for remote meetings and teleconferencing options authorized during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board is very concerned with the provisions of SB 707 that create new public meeting requirements that the board must also implement.

Specifically, the cost and feasibility of ensuring for on-demand interpretation services and translation of board agendas could be a significant barrier to funding regular board meetings. Additionally, the Board is concerned that it could be exceptionally expensive and potentially infeasible to ensure that every member of the public is provided an opportunity to attend via a two-way telephonic option or a two-way audiovisual platform.

There is no doubt that public engagement and participation are important. As the Board considered taking a position on this measure, board members expressed support for ensuring public access and engagement at our meetings. However, implementing a two-way telephonic or audiovisual option for public meetings, which will require the expenditure of public dollars, providing interpretation services across a multitude of languages, and translating agendas into multiple languages will be costly. This is especially true in instances where technology upgrades, the hiring of interpreters, and employing translation services for multiple languages will be needed.

The County does not have surplus budget dollars to devote to such requirements, which may or not actually be utilized by the public. The County has no way of knowing if the expenses incurred to meet the mandates in the measure would end up being utilized by our residents. If there is a lack of demand or clear lack of usage of these additional resources afforded to the public, the Board would be knowingly and continuously expending funds to prepare materials, have translation services on stand-by and fund ongoing telecommunications services that no one wants or asks for. There are many unmet needs in Solano County and the Board would prefer to utilize our limited resources to meet the real and understood needs of our residents.

For these reasons, Solano County must respectfully oppose SB 707.

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
SB 707 / Solano County Board of Supervisors

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitch Mashburn, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

**CC:**

Members of the Senate Local Government Committee  
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, California State Senator  
The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember  
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Paragon Government Relations  
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.