



City Manager
(707) 822-5953

Environmental Services
822-8184

Police
822-2428

Recreation
822-7091

Community Development
822-5955

Finance
822-5951

Public Works
822-5957

Transportation
822-3775

736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

May 20, 2015

via Facsimile (916) 319-2125

The Honorable Kansen Chu
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2170
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 718 (Chu)—Removal of Regulatory Authority: Vehicles Used for Human Habitation
Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

On behalf of the City of Arcata, I write to inform you of our opposition to AB 718 which would prohibit local agencies from enforcing laws and ordinances, or otherwise subject to civil or criminal penalties, the act of people sleeping or resting in a lawfully parked motor vehicle.

While a vehicle may be “lawfully parked” in a residential neighborhood or in the parking lot of a business, that does not mean that it is acceptable to have people live there. The issues raised by AB 718 are less about parking, and more about the use of vehicles for human habitation, including sleeping and “resting” in front of existing homes and businesses.

City parking locations, whether on public or private property (other than campgrounds), were never intended or designed for residential occupancy. Such uses raise major issues of sanitation, as well as the ability of residents to feel secure in their homes and enable the conduct of business activity.

This measure should be rejected. Cities work hard to balance all of the needs of their communities. It is simply not appropriate for the legislature to attempt to remove local government authority to appropriately protect the public health, safety and welfare of its residents from issues that arise when people live outside of campgrounds in cars and trucks parked on public and private property. These are not easy issues to deal with, but they cannot responsibly be ignored.

What is most needed to combat homelessness is funding for affordable housing and emergency shelters. There are several major pending measures that can help restore funds for affordable housing; we encourage legislators to support additional funding for affordable housing and homeless solutions.

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Because this measure would undermine local authority to appropriately protect the public health, safety and welfare of our residents, we must oppose AB 718.

Sincerely,

Michael Winkler

Michael Winkler
Mayor

MW:bd

cc: Assemblymember Jim Wood, District 2
Senator Mike McGuire, District 1
William Weber, Principal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus, via facsimile: (916) 319-3902
Misa Lennox, Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee, via facsimile: (916) 319-3959
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, via email: mdesmond@cacities.org