



CITY OF MERCED

April 25, 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 306 – Building regulations: state building standards – OPPOSE
(As introduced 1/23/2025 and amended 3/12/2025)**

Dear Assemblymember Schultz:

On behalf of the City of Merced, I write to respectfully express our opposition to Assembly Bill 306, which would significantly restrict the ability of cities and counties to adopt local amendments to residential building standards, including green building codes, from June 1, 2025, through June 1, 2031.

AB 306 would impose a blanket moratorium on the ability of local governments to tailor residential building standards to reflect unique climatic, geological, or topographical conditions unless those changes qualify as emergency standards to protect health and safety or are related to home hardening. This prohibition, even if temporary, undermines the core principle of local control and disregards the legitimate and well-established process through which cities like Merced adopt locally necessary modifications to state building codes.

Merced and other Central Valley communities routinely use this authority to address local environmental conditions such as extreme heat, poor air quality, flood risks, and soil characteristics that are not adequately captured by statewide regulations. Restricting this discretion for six years would jeopardize community safety, hinder sustainable development, and reduce flexibility in the face of climate-related challenges.

Furthermore, the bill would block the California Building Standards Commission from considering any new building standard proposals for residential construction during the same period—unless they meet narrow emergency criteria. This freeze on innovation at the state level could delay the adoption of energy-efficient or climate-resilient practices at a time when such improvements are urgently needed.

While the City of Merced supports efforts to address the state's housing crisis, AB 306 takes a one-size-fits-all approach that could have unintended negative consequences for public safety, resilience, and long-term housing quality. We urge the Legislature to preserve local authority to adopt reasonable and locally justified building code modifications, rather than broadly suspending it.



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For these reasons, the City of Merced must respectfully oppose AB 306. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please contact our legislative advocate, Sharon Gonsalves with California Public Policy Group, at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Mayor
City of Merced

CC:

Members and Staff of the Senate Housing Committee
Members and Staff of the Senate Local Government Committee
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator 14th District