



August 2, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1100 (Cortese) Open meetings: orderly conduct
As revised 6/16/22 – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Urban Counties of California (UCC), as co-sponsors, respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill (SB) 1100 (Cortese), which would clarify authority around the removal of individuals who are actually disrupting local agency public meetings. This important change to the Brown Act will help local agencies ensure that public meetings are safe and accessible to all members of the public.

Like many local agencies across the state and around the country, California counties are experiencing an increase in incidence of disruptive behavior by members of the public during public meetings. These behaviors not only disrupt the proceedings of the day, but fundamentally break the promise of the Brown Act, undermining the ability of members of the public to participate in the conduct of the public's business safely and productively. To say that these types of behaviors have been disruptive to the normal conduct of county business is an understatement; they are stressful, demoralizing, and in some cases, frightening for their targets. Worse, when performative acts of disruption occur during recorded meetings, the footage is then shared on social media to garner additional attention and encourage others to do the same for the sole purpose of weakening government structure and function and shut out opposing voices.

SB 1100 provides helpful guidance for local agencies as to how to manage disruptive behavior in a manner consistent with case law. It assists local agencies in dealing with the rising hostility and intimidation occurring during public meetings and ensures the efficient and effective conduct of the public's business. At the same time, the bill safeguards the public's right to address its elected leaders in public meetings under reasonable conduct requirements. For these reasons, CSAC and UCC respectfully request your signature on SB 1100.

Sincerely,

Geoff Neill
Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties
gneill@counties.org

Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California
jkh@hbeadvocacy.com

cc: The Honorable Dave Cortese, California State Senate