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Supervisor Gordon Mar sends formal response to State Senator Scott Wiener on Opposing SB 50

San Francisco - On Tuesday morning, Supervisor Gordon Mar sent a letter to State Senator Scott Wiener regarding SB 50, a state bill authored by Wiener that would mandate zoning changes for increased building heights and density across San Francisco without increasing affordability requirements or community benefits. Mar has introduced a resolution opposing SB 50, co-sponsored by the majority of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which Wiener alleged to be “housing-resistant.”

“I object to the false choice...that if the Board of Supervisors does not support SB 50’s version of growth, then we must be “anti-growth” or “housing-resistant.” I support increasing housing density near public transit and increasing equity and opportunity through thoughtful development. I support building more affordable housing throughout the city, along with a majority of the Board of Supervisors,” stated Mar in the letter. “The disagreement is how we reach that goal.”

On Monday, Mar published an Op-Ed in the San Francisco Chronicle, titled “Trickle-down housing won’t solve our affordability crisis,” where he outlined objections to SB 50 and better approaches to expanding affordable housing.

“SB50 is not an affordable housing strategy. We have disproportionately built housing unaffordable to most San Franciscans, a practice that not only fails to address the demand for truly affordable housing, but also raises median housing prices and rents as luxury development gentrifies our city,” said Mar. “Trickle-down housing contributed to our affordability crisis, and trickle-down housing won’t solve it. Real solutions begin with working with communities to plan affordable development that meets our needs.”

In a previous letter dated March 25th, Wiener accused Mar’s resolution of misrepresenting SB 50; a charge Mar challenged by pointing out that Wiener’s letter in fact misrepresented the language of his resolution.

“While we may disagree on these approaches, I hope our dialogue can continue in good faith. What were described by your letter as inaccuracies were in fact inaccurate representations of the language of our resolution,” Mar wrote to Wiener. “As always, I’m happy to work with you and community advocates to ensure the work we’re doing and the legislation we’re advancing meets the needs of our constituents.”