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Supervisor Gordon Mar stands with Chinatown leaders opposing SB 50 as resolution is adopted by the Board of Supervisors

San Francisco - Supervisor Gordon Mar held a press conference Tuesday with Chinese community leaders highlighting concerns over SB 50, State Senator Scott Wiener’s bill to allow developers to build bigger projects in San Francisco without community input, adequately protecting residents from displacement, or guaranteeing affordable housing. Supervisor Mar’s resolution opposing SB 50 passed the Board of Supervisors today.

“We need to build housing for our communities’ needs, not developers’ bottom lines. SB 50 needs to be amended to guarantee housing affordability, adequately protect vulnerable communities, and protect San Francisco’s authority to plan for our communities,” said Mar, speaking at Bayside Elderly Housing, a 100% affordable housing project for seniors. “We need housing that’s affordable and appropriate for families and seniors. We need to protect people from displacement due to market rate development. In the Sunset where I represent, we need the opportunity to develop a community-driven plan for our neighborhood, and we need the opportunity to build more affordable housing throughout the City, including 100% affordable senior housing projects like Bayside.”

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Mar’s resolution opposing SB 50 unless amended to meet concerns from community members and affordable housing advocates was adopted decisively in a 9-2 vote, with only Supervisors Vallie Brown and Asha Safai voting in the dissent, while also expressing concerns about SB 50.

“When you see there are over 5000 people applying for 100 affordable housing units, we know we need more affordable housing in order to alleviate the affordability crisis, but not market-rate housing,” said Wing Hoo Leung, President of the Community Tenants Association.

“Today, a mother working full time at minimum wage makes just $2400 a month, before paying taxes, deductions and healthcare. How is someone supposed to raise a family in a city where the average 1 bedroom costs $3000? We know market solutions like in SB50 will only address what the market is designed for- who can pay the highest price. We stand together with Supervisor Mar, and our community, to oppose SB50 unless amended to address our communities’ needs,” said Joyce Lam, Political Director with the Chinese Progressive Association.
In addition to being adopted, Mar’s resolution was duplicated to further define specific amendments the Board would like to see made to SB 50 at the state level to guarantee housing affordability, affirm San Francisco’s charter authority, and protect residents vulnerable to displacement and gentrification from the broad impacts of the bill.