

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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June 28, 2022

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1608 (Consolidation of county offices) — OPPOSE

Dear Senator Bradford,

I am writing on behalf of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors to express strong opposition to Assembly Bill 1608 (AB 1608), which is now before the Public Safety Committee.

Our first point of opposition is that this legislation may apply to El Dorado County even though the Charter consolidates the office of the Sheriff and Coroner. This legislation is an example of the State attempting to remove local control from a duly elected Board of Supervisors of a matter that rightly belongs under its purview. Local government is better equipped than the State to determine what organizational structure of its own departments is best for the people it serves.

Our second concern is the cost to the local taxpayers in the creation of two standalone departments. A consolidated Sheriff-Coroner department not only improves certain aspects of investigation and information-gathering, but it also creates cost efficiencies. As written, AB 1608 identifies no funding from the State to offset costs to counties resulting from the legislation, which we estimate for El Dorado County to be at least \$6 million per year, and likely more. Further, the bill identifies no time frame for implementation.

Sincerely,

Lori Parlin
Chair, Board of Supervisors

- c. Senator Brian Dahle
Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember Kevin Kiley