



June 11, 2024

Honorable Chair Durazo
Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4119
slcl.committee@senate.ca.gov

Dear Honorable Chair Durazo:

I am writing to urge you to oppose AB 2986. This bill now being considered by the State Senate is expensive and fundamentally flawed. AB 2986 would be more harmful than beneficial.

Its proponents call it “just a study”, but this “study” will cost taxpayers nearly \$6 million, put union jobs at risk, and skates so close to the ethical line that it will almost certainly face legal challenges.

The last analysis of the economic viability of incorporation in 2012 showed that if East Los Angeles was incorporated, it would run an immediate \$19-million budget deficit in the first year alone. That deficit would be significantly higher today given that costs for every public service have grown since. These multi-million deficits will have to be paid either by hiking taxes on residents and businesses or by slashing such vital community programs as law enforcement, fire services, libraries, housing, parks, animal control, and graffiti removal.

AB 2986 also completely bypasses the LAFCO signature collection process. Instead of being a grassroots campaign, it ignored the community and unions to create a Task Force that will decide on their own the future of East Los Angeles rather than the people and business owners who live and work there.

If this bill truly was a grassroots campaign, the unions would have been involved. Instead, the unions – and a majority of residents - were cut out.

California is facing a historic budget deficit. The last thing taxpayers need is to waste money on a study that will not reveal any information we don't already know.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose AB 2986.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sergio Barahona
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