August 8, 2022

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg

915 I St, 5th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Sacramento Homeless Initiative**

Dear Mayor Steinberg:

Municipal governments and business leaders have struggled with the problem of homelessness for decades. Model policies that involve positive cooperation between business coalitions and city leaders with the stamp of approval from the voters are rare. The landmark ballot measure approved by the city of Sacramento earlier this year gathered national attention for this reason. This is why news reports that you and the Sacramento City Council are considering a change to the plan of putting a citywide ballot measure before voters this November are so disappointing. We are writing to urge you to honor your original commitment and send a signal to other communities in California and nationwide that municipal governments and business leaders can come together to address this critical issue.

The proposed ballot measure – the *Emergency Shelter and Enforcement Act of 2022* –would be a groundbreaking act of voluntary legislative action and put Sacramento at the forefront of cities nationwide on an issue affecting so many communities. This unique model is a very effective tool for consulting with other communities on policy solutions against an often frustrating and challenging backdrop. The voluntary commitment by coalition leaders to drop their individual petition efforts in concert with council action only underscores the powerful message surrounding your actions.

Sacramento has become a national leader with its innovative and inclusive plan to combat the problem of homelessness. We ask you to stay the course contemplated by the *Emergency Shelter and Enforcement Act of 2022* and not disrupt the valuable leadership that has reverberated across the policy landscape. The Sacramento model of coordination and compromise as originally conceived this spring should continue to lead the way in a space too often dominated by fingerpointing and broken promises.

Sincerely,



Neil Bradley

Executive Vice President, Chief Policy Officer,

and Head of Strategic Advocacy

U.S. Chamber of Commerce