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The Honorable XXX
Chair, Senate XXX Committee
State Capitol, Room XXX
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2934 (Stone) Residential lead-based paint hazard reduction program: county health departments: certification.
As Amended April 26, 2018– SUPPORT**

Dear Senator XXX:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support of AB 2934 (Stone), which seeks to increase the supply of persons certified to conduct lead paint inspections and abatement activities. More licensed lead inspectors and abatement contractors are needed to carry out this important work; we believe that your bill will facilitate licensure of a robust lead-based paint inspection and abatement workforce to meet community needs.

Since 2006, the County of Monterey has worked in a coalition of ten cities and counties on litigation brought on behalf of the People of State of California against former lead paint manufacturers (“Manufacturers”). The litigation alleged that the Manufacturers sold lead-contaminated paint that they knew was highly toxic to young children and created a public nuisance that threatens the health of California’s children to this day. In 2014, a judge issued judgment in favor of the People, ordering the Manufacturers to pay \$1.15 billion to fund (1) inspection for and abatement of lead paint and lead-contaminated dust from interiors of homes and lead-contaminated soil around homes built in 1980 or earlier in the ten counties and cities; (2) remediation of structural deficiencies in the homes that would cause the lead control measures to fail, such as leaks, contact surfaces without proper clearance, etc.; and (3) public education and outreach necessary for the program. In 2017, a Court of Appeal upheld the judgment as to pre-1951 homes only and remanded the case to the trial court for further proceedings. In February of this year, the California Supreme Court denied requests by the Manufacturers to hear a further appeal.

All homes built before 1978 are presumed to contain lead paint, and the ten jurisdictions prosecuting the case are estimated to have more than 1.5 million housing units of pre-1951 housing. We anticipate that the need for inspectors and abatement contractors will increase with the implementation of the abatement plan ordered by the court. Our goal is to ensure that there are sufficient certified lead-abatement inspectors and contractors to abate lead paint in as many homes as possible and in accordance with all applicable safety standards.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 2934 and respectfully request your favorable consideration of our views on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Senate XXX Committee
XXX, Consultant, Senate XXX Committee
XXX, Republican Consultant, Senate XXX Committee
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Assembly
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly
California State Association of Counties