



March 18, 2024

Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1227 (Wiener) – Downtown San Francisco Revitalization

Chair Allen:

On behalf of the California Retailers Association (CRA), we are pleased to support Senate Bill 1227, providing CEQA exemptions for development project in San Francisco's downtown until 2035.

The COVID-19 pandemic devastated many downtowns across California and the economic recovery has been sluggish. Unfortunately, San Francisco's downtown has been hit particularly hard, forcing retailers to close stores or pullback potential investments. SB 1227 would provide a new pathway towards economic recovery for San Francisco's downtown by incentivizing developments through CEQA exemption. Retailers, employees, and the neighborhood would all benefit from revitalized downtown San Francisco.

The California Retailers Association is the only statewide trade association representing all segments of the retail industry including general merchandise, department stores, mass merchandisers, on-line marketplaces, restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets and grocery stores, retail pharmacies, and specialty retail such as auto, vision, jewelry, hardware, and home stores.

San Francisco has long been a renowned destination for retail. This bill is a sensible approach to helping San Francisco's most important economic engine recover and thrive for the benefit of the whole city.

We ask the Senate Environmental Quality Committee to pass SB 1227.

Sincerely,

Ryan Allain
Director, Government Affairs
California Retailers Association