Name:

Address: **[Club/Organization Letterhead]**

Date:

Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee

 Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, Chair

Assembly Local Government Committee

 Assembly Member Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry, Chair

 Re: **Opposition to Assembly Bill 1910**

Dear Chairs Wicks and Aguiar-Curry, and Committee Members:

I am writing today to express **opposition** to AB 1910 **[Conversion of Publicly Owned Golf Courses to Affordable Housing].**

Publicly owned golf courses are part of the same park systems that provide soccer, baseball, swimming, picnicking, biking, pickleball, tennis, walking/riding trails, and numerous other recreational amenities, the one difference being golf is generally more utilized than the rest. Indeed, golf play is up 22% since 2019, according to the National Golf Foundation. The publicly-owned courses are the People’s Courses – most easily and affordably available across the full spectrum of age, gender, economic status and racial and ethnic groups -- and indispensable to high school and junior golf programs.

Golf courses preserve open space, sequester carbon, provide habitat, promote biodiversity, and allow rainwater to get into groundwater basins. And in times of global warming and record high temperatures, golf courses reduce temperatures in their surrounding areas. Publicly owned golf courses provide these benefits almost entirely in densely packed urban environments where they are most needed, and in communities disproportionately identified as “park poor.” Converting them to hardscape exacerbates both problems. Public golf courses and other green spaces provide lasting capital; once gone, they are gone forever.

This bill singles out golf and only golf for residential redevelopment among the state’s abundance of park, recreation, and open space activities. Were the bill to have proposed putting ALL park, recreation, and open space activities in play as a form of shared sacrifice that would have been one thing, but this bill serves up only one activity for sacrifice.

**PLEASE OPPOSE AB 1910!**

Respectfully,

 *YourSignatureHere*

 [Your Name here – with title, if for an organization]

 [Your organization’s name here]