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Letters: Height initiative protects landmarks

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Opponents of the Citizens' Height Initiative (now ballot Measure B), who say it will prevent the rebuilding of landmarks like the Arlington and Granada theaters, apparently are unaware that these structures could not be rebuilt now without a change in the City Charter, since both are well over the current 60-foot limit.

If opponents really are concerned about preserving our city's architectural heritage, why aren't they offering an amendment allowing the rebuilding of such threatened structures?

Measure B, in fact, defends our landmarks from being overshadowed by the new high-rises that Measure B opponents paradoxically claim will preserve the charm and character of downtown Santa Barbara.

The basic argument against Measure B is based on the fantastic notion that once our downtown is filled in with tall buildings and our mountains blotted out, further local land development will grind to a halt, thus saving the Gaviota coast, the Mesa, and San Roque for posterity. That's like saying greater density in lower Manhattan would have preserved northern New Jersey for truck farming.

Don't believe it; and do vote yes on Measure B, the Citizens' Height Initiative .