



December 12, 2022

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
268 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Thompson:

I am writing to you to ask that you strongly support any effort to include the provisions of Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) H.R. 2573 in any year-end legislative vehicle. This important affordable housing bill aligns with the City's 2022 Federal Legislative Platform Housing and Community Development priority area approved by the City Council on January 25, 2022.

According to the National Low-Incoming Housing Coalition, the United States has a shortage of 6.8 million affordable homes available to low-income renters. In our state, more than 1.4 million units are needed to address the affordable housing shortage. Prior to the pandemic, one in four renters spent half of their monthly income on rent, and nearly one million tenants were evicted each year.

The October 2017 fires exacerbated an already significant housing shortage in Santa Rosa and caused significant increases in home prices. Rising costs are causing many essential workers to live in overcrowded homes, commute long distances, or move away, making it harder for employers—including businesses, hospitals, schools, and local governments—to recruit and retain a skilled workforce, and impacting our ability to meet local climate goals.

First, please consider efforts to restore the cut to the housing credit by extending the 12.5 percent housing credit allocation increase that expired at the end of 2021. There is a pipeline of housing credit developments that are ready to go, but the program is vastly oversubscribed. In 2020, housing credit developers requested nearly 2.5 times as many housing credits as there was available authority for. Any restored or new resources can be deployed immediately by restoring and extending the 12.5 percent housing credit allocation increase.

Second, we need Congress to lower the "50 percent test" to 25 percent to decrease the amount of private activity bonds (PABs) needed to access the housing credit. Currently, to access 4 percent housing credits, 50 percent of a development must be funded with private activity bonds.

Office of the Mayor
City of Santa Rosa
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



Unfortunately, nearly half of all states have already reached their federally allocated PAB cap. Without further congressional action, state and local governments and affordable housing developers are limited in their ability to finance critical new housing stock. This barrier makes building affordable housing more costly and burdensome. Lowering the “50 percent test” would allow all states to more efficiently use their PAB cap and quickly unlock desperately needed resources for shovel-ready developments, which will produce more than one million new affordable homes over the next decade.

By enacting these two provisions, we can have a huge, positive impact on affordable housing production. I respectfully ask you to urge congressional leaders to enact these vital provisions by year-end. I appreciate your immediate consideration of these priority items.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Rogers" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Rogers, Mayor

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