



February 27, 2017

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 916-651-4939

SUPPORT FOR SB 2 BUILDING HOMES AND JOBS ACT

Dear Senator Atkins,

The Housing Authority of the City of Santa Rosa supports your SB 2, the Building Homes and Jobs Act. This measure would generate hundreds of millions of dollars per year for affordable rental or ownership housing, supportive housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing and other housing needs via a \$75 recordation fee on specified real estate documents.

Cities, including the City of Santa Rosa are eager to help encourage the construction of affordable housing, but with the loss of over \$1 billion per year of redevelopment housing funds they lack the resources to do so. While the timeliness of the environmental review, permitting, and approval processes can always be improved to help reduce costs, affordable housing projects require some form of financial assistance. This measure is a significant step in the right direction.

In Santa Rosa, we have many affordable housing projects in the pipeline that need additional funds to house some of our low-income families. In response to our housing need, the City Council recently approved the *Housing Action Plan*, a blueprint for providing Housing for All. As part of the *Housing Action Plan*, the Council allocated \$3 million to incentivize affordable housing production in the shortest timeframe. We received 8 applications with a total development cost of over \$112 million. The requests for the Council's funds totaled \$17 million. Unfortunately, our local funds can only go a short distance to meeting the great housing need that faces Santa Rosa and the State of California.

SB 2 would provide an ongoing, permanent state source of funding for much needed affordable housing projects.

For these reasons, **the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Rosa supports SB 2.**

Sincerely,

WAYNE DOWNEY
Chair, Housing Authority of the City of Santa Rosa

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