



February 27, 2017

The Honorable Jim Beall
Member, State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 916-651-4915

SUPPORT FOR SB 3 (BEALL) – AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND ACT OF 2018

Dear Senator Beall,

The Housing Authority of the City of Santa Rosa supports SB 3, the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018, which authorizes a \$3 billion general obligation bonds to fund affordable housing programs and infill infrastructure projects.

Cities are in great need of assistance now that Proposition 46 and Proposition 1C funds have been allocated, \$1 billion in annual redevelopment funding have been eliminated, and federal investments in critical housing programs have been slashed 50-77% from 2005 to 2015.

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.

The lack of construction in the private housing market has resulted in increasing rents and home prices well above the national average, while also playing a role in the state's homeless population climbing to 116,000 after years of progress. SB 3 would help mitigate these problems by infusing \$3 billion into the affordable housing market.

For these reasons, **the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Rosa supports SB 3** and applauds your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

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