



July 7, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
1021 O Street Room 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1657 (Wicks): The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024 — Support (as amended on April 17, 2023)

Dear Chair Caballero:

The City of Santa Rosa is pleased to support AB 1657 (Wicks), which would place a \$10 billion bond measure on the March 2024 ballot to spur the production of affordable and supportive housing.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

The City Council's 2023-2024 citywide goals, adopted on May 23, identified housing for all economic levels in the community as the City Council's number one goal. Achieving this goal will require expanding the housing stock and offering a wider range of housing choices for residents of Santa Rosa.

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing Californians today. City officials intimately understand these crises firsthand. Local leaders are working to find creative solutions so homes of all income levels can be built.

AB 1657 would provide targeted and significant funding to support community-based solutions that get our residents off the streets and keep them in their homes. A recent statewide survey by Cal Cities underscores the need for funding. The results show that cities believe limited supportive housing options and lack of ongoing funding are the top two barriers to preventing and reducing homelessness.

The investments proposed in AB 1657 would come at a critical time as the last round of funding for the state's flagship multi-family affordable housing program, the Multifamily Housing Program, was oversubscribed ten to one. Affordable housing projects are ready to go if funding is available.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa fully supports AB 1657. Should you have any questions please contact our legislative advocate, Dane Hutchings, with the Renne Public Policy Group, at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor