



## California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund

360 Grand Ave, #323  
Oakland, CA 94612  
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January 15th, 2020

Hon. Scott Wiener  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Support for SB 50 the More HOMES Act**

Dear Senator Wiener,

I write on behalf of California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund (CaRLA) to express our support for Senate Bill 50, the More HOMES Act.

CaRLA's mission is to push toward a future for California where we build enough housing to meet our needs. This means providing housing for all incomes, distributed fairly throughout the state in order to provide opportunities for families to take advantage of California's opportunities. CaRLA fights toward this goal through education and legal advocacy to ensure that local governments follow state housing laws.

Our work helps to ensure that local governments approve housing proposals in areas where new development is already planned for. Where that planning prevents more housing, however, we are powerless to push cities to reform their ways. In order to realize a more affordable and equitable housing future for California, we need comprehensive zoning reforms to make room for new homes. SB 50 is an indispensable step towards making housing more abundant in California. It would implement a statewide framework for removing restrictive zoning regulations that are preventing us from adding enough homes throughout the state while enacting procedural reform to ensure local jurisdictions are unable to frustrate the law's goals.

By making housing more abundant, California can significantly reduce the cost of living here, providing essential housing for our low- and middle-income residents. Research from UC Berkeley confirms that housing reduces displacement and meeting our state's need for 3.5 million new homes by 2025 is imperative if we want California to be a place where middle-income people can thrive.

The More HOMES Act is also a climate solution. The California Air Resources Board suggests that we cannot meet our climate goals as a state without decreasing the total number of vehicle miles traveled, a goal we will not meet without housing infill policies. Climate pollutants from vehicles most harm low-income Californians and getting people to walk or take transit to work will reduce pollutants coming from cars.



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The More HOMES Act builds a fairer California, one that is more empowering to its residents. By overriding restrictive zoning in segregated areas and limiting opportunities for cities to defy the rule of law through capricious denials and endless public hearings, the More HOMES could help reverse the ongoing trend of segregation in California. It gives more families access to good schools and healthy air.

By allowing diverse housing options within the same neighborhood, the bill also allows families to age in place, surrounded by their friends, family, and faith communities. This keeps family close and communities together, reinforcing natural support systems. When Californians can depend on their neighbors for community, all of California benefits.

**The More HOMES Act will help ensure Californians have access to affordable, walkable and transit-oriented housing -- an urgent priority for our growing population of working Californians.**

For these reasons, CaRLA is pleased to support the More HOMES Act. We're committed to working with you, the State Legislature, and Governor Newsom to empower Californians with greater housing choice, more economic security, and the ability to keep California's families together. We thank you for raising the essential issues the More HOMES Act addresses and will advocate strongly for it.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dylan Casey", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dylan Casey

Executive Director, California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund