

April 16, 2017

Honorable Senator Nancy Skinner  
State Capitol, Room 2059  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 167 (Skinner) – Housing Accountability Act– SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Skinner,

**SPUR is pleased to offer support to your efforts to strengthen the Housing Accountability Act through SB 167.**

SPUR (San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association) is a member-supported nonprofit organization that promotes good planning and good government. We bring people together from across the political spectrum to develop solutions to the big problems our cities face. With offices in San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland, we are recognized as a leading civic planning organization and are respected for our independent and holistic approach to urban issues.

SPUR has worked for many years to develop policy proposals to address the Bay Area's high housing costs. We believe that the cost of housing in our region and other coastal areas of California is a grave threat to our social fabric. Competition for the limited housing stock is driving long-time residents out of the Bay Area and out of state, with both economic and social consequences.

While there are many causes of the housing crisis, chief among them is the fact that our local land use system has made it extremely difficult to add housing supply. Proposals to add housing are met with years of delay and, often, outright disapproval. The housing shortage, while felt regionally and statewide, is often created by the individual decisions of local jurisdictions.

**SPUR supports Senator Skinner's efforts to strengthen the Housing Accountability Act. It is critical to prevent localities from saying no to housing at the expense of California as a whole.** While we do not see any silver bullet solutions, we believe this bill is a key part of a multi-pronged effort to increase state housing production.

Sincerely,



Kristy Wang  
Community Planning Policy Director