



**SPUR**

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

August 25, 2017

TRANSMITTED BY E-MAIL

Governor Jerry Brown  
Kevin de León, Senate President Pro-Tempore  
Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker

**RE: State Housing Package - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown, President Pro-Tempore de León and Speaker Rendon:

Thank you for your commitment to addressing the state's housing shortage and resulting affordability crisis. As you are well aware, new housing in California has not kept pace with our growing economy and population. As a result, our communities face increased challenges with homelessness, displacement, longer commutes, sprawl and overcrowding.

**SPUR urges you to pass a package of this session's housing bills — including, but not limited to SB 2 (Atkins), SB 3 (Beall), SB 35 (Wiener) and SB 167 (Skinner)— that addresses both the demand for more new housing in the market and additional funding sources to subsidize housing for those with the greatest need.**

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 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 (as well as southern California) is a grave threat to our social fabric. Competition for the limited housing stock is driving long-time residents out of our region.

Core to SPUR's principles is the belief that we must both invest deeply in subsidized affordable housing *and* allow for new market-rate housing at all levels in order to relieve pressure on the housing stock. Subsidy alone cannot address a crisis of this breadth and depth, and our challenge is complicated by the fact that California's land use framework does not make it easy for localities to choose housing. State level reforms are needed to ensure that jurisdictions across the state will do their part to zone for, approve and permit much-needed housing as well as jobs.

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We strongly support passing a housing package that includes an affordable housing bond, a permanent and ongoing source for affordable housing, strengthened accountability and enforcement of existing state housing laws, and reforms to the planning process that will streamline and expedite infill multifamily housing in localities across the state. We look forward to seeing the details when the package is officially introduced.

**It is also clear that this session's proposed housing package is not a cure-all, but the essential first step of a broader endeavor to address the state's long-term housing shortage. SPUR applauds you and other state leaders for your work on this core challenge for California, and we look forward to what the state can accomplish next year.**

Please feel free to contact me ([gmetcalf@spur.org](mailto:gmetcalf@spur.org), 415-644-4285) or Kristy Wang, SPUR's Community Planning Policy Director ([kwang@spur.org](mailto:kwang@spur.org), 415-644-4884), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Metcalf', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gabriel Metcalf  
President & CEO

CC: Senator Toni Atkins, District 39  
Senator Jim Beall, District 15, Senate Committee on Transportation & Housing  
Chairperson  
Senator Nancy Skinner, District 9  
Senator Scott Wiener, District 11  
Assemblymember David Chiu, District 17, Assembly Committee on Housing &  
Community Development Chairperson  
Camille Wagner, Office of Governor Brown  
Ben Metcalf, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development  
SPUR Board of Directors