



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

August 28, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 678 (Bocanegra) – Housing Accountability Act– SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown,

SPUR is pleased to offer support to Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra's and others' efforts to strengthen the Housing Accountability Act through AB 678.

SPUR 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.

The housing shortage, while felt regionally and statewide, is often created by the individual decisions of local jurisdictions. While the state has existing laws in place that aim to hold localities responsible, we need more levers and stronger tools. AB 678 seeks to make the Housing Accountability Act enforceable in order to stop exclusionary behaviors.

SPUR supports Assemblymember Bocanegra'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

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