



SPUR

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April 20, 2017

Office of Assemblymember David Chiu
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1423 (CHIU) – HOUSING ANNUAL REPORTS - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Chiu:

SPUR is pleased to offer support to AB 1423, which requires charter cities to submit an annual progress report on housing element implementation and progress toward meeting their fair share of regional housing needs.

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.

There is a growing recognition that California has not produced enough housing to keep up with its population over the last few decades. The lack of sufficient housing is creating challenges for affordability, livability and the environment. Unfortunately, policymakers, developers and the public have insufficient information to effectively address the housing shortage. Local jurisdictions, which range widely in size and staff capacity, collect data inconsistently across the state and do not always provide it to the state for aggregation. Definitions are not necessarily comparable, and data is often qualitative rather than quantitative.

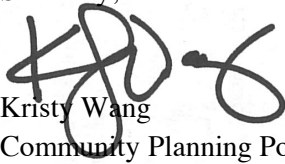
More and better housing-related data should be available to identify drivers of the housing shortage and the policy solutions that most effectively support additional housing production. Better data collection and analysis is essential for making good policy, for public access and awareness, and for litigation to enforce existing laws like the Housing Accountability Act, Housing Element law and fair housing law.

This legislation is an important step in the right direction. Currently, charter cities are exempt from the requirement for localities to provide an annual progress report on the status of their housing element, implementation, and progress on meeting their share of regional housing needs, and efforts to remove barriers to housing. While 50 percent of charter cities voluntarily submit these reports, full compliance from charter cities will provide a more comprehensive picture of the state's housing progress overall.

SPUR supports Assemblymember Chiu's efforts to expand the state's housing data collection and reporting. Requiring charter cities to comply with the current annual progress report requirement means that the state will gain a fuller picture of progress that local jurisdictions are making on housing policies and programs. We support this bill and would support amendments that expand data collection.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at kwang@spur.org or 415-644-4884.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KWANG', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kristy Wang
Community Planning Policy Director

CC: SPUR Board of Directors