

March 15, 2019

State Senator Scott Wiener  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
**Sent Via Email: [Ann.Fryman@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Ann.Fryman@sen.ca.gov)**

**RE: SB 50 – More HOMES Act – SUPPORT IN CONCEPT**

Dear Senator Wiener,

SPUR is pleased to offer support in concept to SB 50, the More HOMES Act, which will overcome barriers to the creation of infill homes in the right places — close to major transit and in high opportunity areas — throughout California. SPUR is happy to support a major package of bills that address protection, preservation and production of all levels of housing, and SB 50 is a key component of that package.

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.

SB 50 is one important part of a statewide effort to plan and zone for housing at the appropriate scale to the housing shortage our state faces. This policy would create an inclusive mix of homes near transit and jobs, consistent with the goals of Plan Bay Area. It would spur the development of ‘missing middle’ housing types that are within reach of working families and blend into existing neighborhoods. This type of housing is common in pre-war neighborhoods of California, but has largely been zoned out of existence in recent decades.

SB 50 is a thoughtful and nuanced update to last year’s SB 827, which SPUR supported. SB 827 started an important conversation about land use and housing in California, and we support your efforts to address some of the questions raised in that conversation.

We thank you for raising the essential issues the More HOMES Act addresses. SPUR’s Agenda for Change calls for “concentrat[ing] growth inside existing cities” and “focus[ing] housing growth in existing communities.” SB 50 will help make these environmental choices possible in more locations.

Sincerely,



Alicia John-Baptiste  
President & CEO