

**SPUR**

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June 21, 2019

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Non-Discretionary Review of 100% Affordable Housing and Teacher Housing Projects
(Board File No. 190437)

Dear Supervisors:

SPUR urges you to support placing this proposed charter amendment on the ballot in order to streamline the review and approval of 100% affordable housing and housing for educators. We believe the passage of this measure will have a real impact on how quickly and cost-effectively the city and industry will be able to produce types of housing that are urgently needed in San Francisco.

While San Francisco has gone far beyond its neighbors and peers in dedicating resources to affordable housing, this city is still far behind in producing the amount of housing that is actually needed to keep up with population growth, particularly for low-, moderate- and even middle-income households. This has come about for a whole host of reasons, including a long history of insufficient funding for affordable housing at all levels of government, the swiftly rising cost of construction, a shortage of construction labor, widespread NIMBYism and a complicated and lengthy approvals and permitting process.

Clearly there is no silver bullet, so we must collectively take a variety of steps to remedy these barriers. This measure will address our infamously complex approvals process that leaves open many opportunities for opposition to delay or halt affordable housing. It will require the city to create a more efficient and less risky approvals process, resulting in quicker delivery and less expensive production of housing.

SPUR believes that the full Board of Supervisors supports the creation of housing for educators and low- and moderate-income households. Putting this measure on the ballot will take an important step toward delivering that housing more quickly and for less cost. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristy Wang

Community Planning Policy Director

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