

June 2, 2021

Oakland City Planning Commission
ATTN: Darin Ranelletti, Policy Director for Housing Security, City of Oakland
1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Proposed Amendments to Oakland Planning Code Regulations Related to Innovative Construction and Expanded Housing Options Including Recreational Vehicles

Dear Planning Commissioners,

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express support for Construction Innovation and Expanded Housing Options, Including Recreational Vehicles (File ZA21013).

One of SPUR's primary priorities is to reduce the cost of building housing to make it more affordable for everyone. SPUR estimates that the Bay Area needs to produce a minimum of 2.2 million housing units by 2070 to accommodate the region's growth, something that cannot be achieved without bold changes to current zoning and building laws. As construction costs continue to increase in Oakland, we must pave the way for the creation of more affordable housing options that still provide Oakland residents with safe and high-quality shelter. Therefore, I support Mayor Schaaf, Councilmember Kalb, and Councilmember Thao's proposed building code changes that legitimize low-cost housing options such as recreational vehicles, tiny homes on wheels, modular housing, and efficiency dwelling units.

In order for this ordinance to be successful, we encourage the City of Oakland to provide resources to residents of recreational vehicles, tiny homes, and manufactured homes to ensure compliance with the ordinance's habitability standards. SPUR encourages further discussion on how these standards can be enforced without excessive use of fines and fees to ensure the safety of residents and health of the environment where dwellings reside.

I urge the Oakland City Planning Commission to continue its work to improve the accessibility and affordability of housing in Oakland by approving the proposed ordinance and expanding the availability of low-cost housing options.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this proposed ordinance.

Sincerely,

Ronak Davé Okoye

Oakland Director, SPUR