



January 23, 2022

The Hon. _____
Capitol Office, CA State Assembly
1021 "O" Street, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Senator _____
Capitol Office, CA State Senate
1021 "O" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Housing Crisis In California

Dear Legislators and Governor,

As a Californian, deeply concerned about the housing crisis that is impacting this state, I am writing to express my strong support for bold housing reform in 2022. Building on much-needed progress in 2021, we achieved critical successes in paring back exclusionary zoning and legalizing more homes in 2021, but we must do more to fix the housing crisis.

LA County has a shortage of more than 800,000 new homes, as well as over 60,000 unhoused neighbors living on the streets. More than half of renting families have had to cut back on basic needs to afford rent, and many have gone into debt just to stay sheltered. With the Covid-19 pandemic being far from over, housing the unhoused, helping families stay housed, and expanding housing affordability should all be top priorities for 2022.

The region's housing affordability crisis stems from a severe housing shortage due to having built only 1 home per 5.5 jobs created between 2011 and 2017 combined with widespread apartment bans, even in job-rich urban centers. Therefore, it is imperative that we build upon 2021's progress on housing to legalize more homes near jobs, make building homes easier, fund affordable housing, and strengthen tenants' rights.

Housing reform will help us reduce rents, end homelessness, and shorten commutes - it benefits all of us. In fact, a recent LA Times poll demonstrated strong voter approval for housing reform. This should be a wake-up call for all elected leaders - voters had waited for too long for meaningful change in housing.

In addition, one thing you can specifically do right now is support three pieces of legislation:

- 1) AB 854 (Lee) will close loopholes in the Ellis Act. The Ellis Act was passed to help long-term owners of rental property exit from the rental market. The act has been abused by bad actors who don't actually want to exit the rental market, but simply want to flip properties.
- 2) AB 889 (Gipson) will require corporate landlords to report their identities and make that information accessible to the public and make it harder for bad actors to skirt responsibility for their profit-driven buying practices and rental conditions.
- 3) AB 1199 (Gipson) will impose a tax on the largest corporate landlords and discourage the further consolidation of property ownership in the hands of a few, while addressing the impacts of this consolidation by supporting relief for tenants and small mom and pop landlords, homebuyer education, affordable housing and homelessness, and job training.

I demand real, substantial, transformative change in housing, and we urge you to propose and support bold solutions this year! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

Address _____
