



March 28, 2019

Senator Wiener
Capitol Office
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Dear Senator Wiener

LandWatch Monterey County supports Senate Bill 50, the More HOMES Act.

Founded in 1997, LandWatch Monterey County is a nonprofit, land conservation and planning organization representing more than 1000 residents of Monterey County. Providing affordable housing for local working families, located within mixed-income neighborhoods, is one of the five fundamental planning principles that guide our advocacy.

By making housing more abundant, California can significantly reduce the cost of living and provide housing for our low- and middle-income residents. Research from UC Berkeley confirms that housing reduces displacement. Meeting our state's need for 3.5 million new homes by 2025 is imperative if we want California to be a place where middle-income people can thrive.

The More HOMES Act is also a climate solution. The California Air Resources Board suggests that we cannot meet our climate goals as a state without decreasing the total number of vehicle miles traveled, a goal we will not meet without housing infill policies. Vehicular greenhouse gas emission harm all Californians, especially low-income residents. Providing walkable and transit-oriented communities will reduce these emissions.

The More HOMES Act builds a fairer California. By overriding restrictive zoning in segregated areas, the More HOMES could help reverse the ongoing trend of segregation in California. It gives more families access to good schools and healthy air.

By allowing diverse housing options within the same neighborhood, the bill also allows families to age in place, surrounded by their friends, family, and faith communities. This keeps families close and communities together, reinforcing natural support systems. When Californians can depend on their neighbors for community, all California benefits.

The More HOMES Act will help ensure Californians have access to affordable, walkable and transit-oriented housing -- an urgent priority for our growing population of younger and working Californians.

For these reasons, LandWatch Monterey County is pleased to support the More HOMES Act. We're committed to working with you, the state legislature, and Governor Newsom to empower Californians with greater housing choices, more economic security, and the ability to keep California's families together. We thank you for raising the essential issues the More HOMES Act addresses and will advocate strongly for it.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael DeLapa". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping letters and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael DeLapa
Executive Director