

City Council

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City of Sebastopol

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4072
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 916-651-4939

RE: SB 2 Building Homes and Jobs Act
Letter of Support

Dear Senator Atkins:

The City of Sebastopol supports your Senate Bill 2 (SB 2), the Building Homes and Jobs Act. This measure would generate hundreds of millions of dollars per year for affordable rental or ownership housing, supportive housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing and other housing needs via a \$75 recordation fee on specified real estate documents.

Cities, including the City of Sebastopol, are eager to help encourage the construction of affordable housing, but with the loss of over \$1 billion per year of redevelopment housing funds, they lack the resources to do so. While the timeliness of the environmental review, permitting, and approval processes can always be improved to help reduce costs, affordable housing projects require significant financial assistance. This measure is a meaningful step in the right direction.

The City of Sebastopol has been challenged to provide the local funds needed to facilitate the creation of new affordable housing units. The loss of redevelopment funds was the source of Sebastopol's inability to continue our efforts to create and preserve affordable housing. The City lost \$1,004,000.00 from its affordable housing fund balance when the City's Community Development Agency was dissolved. Without a replacement funding source for redevelopment, the City does not have the means to fund affordable housing. SB 2 would provide an ongoing, permanent state source of funding for much needed affordable housing projects.

For these reasons, the City of Sebastopol supports SB 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Una Glass', is written over a blue circular stamp. The stamp is partially obscured by the signature and the text below it.

Una Glass
Mayor
City of Sebastopol