

State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

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Chartered by
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES
DEPARTMENT
AFL - CIO

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Scott Weiner
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 35 (Weiner) - SUPPORT (As Proposed to be Amended)

Dear Senator Weiner:

I write on behalf of the State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, to express our support for SB 35 (as proposed to be amended), which provides a streamline permitting process to expedite the construction of housing projects with critical labor protections for the men and women of the Building Trades.

I also want to express our appreciation for working with us to reach an agreement on language that will achieve these protections. We recognize that success in addressing the State's housing challenges requires the application of numerous strategies, and to that end, we have worked with you, other members of the Legislature, a diverse range of stakeholders in a coalition to support a variety of solutions. A streamline approval process that protects local inclusionary levels of affordability, focused in urban areas that have not met their regional housing needs, includes fair wages for workers and requires a skilled and trained workforce address many issues our coalition and our affiliated unions and local Building Trades Councils support.

Working families across the economic spectrum are increasingly spending more of their income on housing costs. For minimum wage workers it is almost impossible to afford fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment. California has the second lowest homeownership rate in the nation, while income inequality has grown to alarming rates over the past three decades of overall sustained economic growth. The low wage crisis was further intensified by the recent economic recession and mortgage crisis which severely impacted construction workers and their families leaving tens of thousands in economic distress or losing their homes, or a combination thereof.

In closing, we understand more changes will be necessary as this bill moves forward, but we are pleased with the agreement we have reached with you and others on important labor standards.

Sincerely,



CESAR DIAZ
Legislative Director

CD:bp
opeiu#29/afl-cio