

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Email: Angela.Pontes@asm.ca.gov

Re: Support for ACA 1 (Voter thresholds for affordable housing and infrastructure bonds)

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the San Diego Housing Federation, I am writing in support of ACA 1 to allow voters to approve special purpose bonds for affordable housing and infrastructure by a majority of 55 percent. Founded in 1990, the San Diego Housing Federation (SDHF) serves as the collective voice of those who support, build and finance affordable homes in the San Diego region.

As is well and widely known, California is in the midst of a housing crisis. In response, voters approved Proposition 1, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Act, to provide \$4 billion in state bonds for the construction and preservation of affordable homes, and Proposition 2, No Place Like Home, to repurpose fund to be used for the construction of permanent supportive homes for people living with mental illnesses. These funds combined will make a significant impact on the shortfall of affordable homes that are so badly needed in California.

In order to maximize these funds, there is a need for local governments to provide local funding that can be matched with these new state funds. ACA 1 will allow a majority of voters to approve local bonds that can be used to leverage these state dollars to have a greater impact on the housing crisis. This legislation helps give a greater voice to the majority of voters who would approve such measures over a minority who might oppose and currently hold a disproportionate influence on the outcomes of local bond measures.

For these reasons, SDHF is very pleased to strongly support this legislation and thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Stephen Russell
Executive Director