

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Steve Glazer
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Support – SB 248 – Taxation: renters' credit.

Dear Senator Glazer,

I write on behalf of California YIMBY to express our support for Senate Bill 248, which will provide urgently-needed relief to millions of Californians struggling with high housing costs.

California YIMBY is a statewide organization of 60,000 neighbors who welcome more neighbors. We believe that an equitable California begins with abundant, secure, affordable housing. We focus on housing and land use policy at the state and local level to ensure grassroots organizers and city leaders have the tools they need to accelerate home building.

Half of California's renters pay more than 30 percent of their income toward rent, and nearly one in three pay 50 percent or more. Unaffordable rents disproportionately burden California's most vulnerable residents. By increasing the renters' credit, SB 248 allows renters to spend more on healthy food, on better educations, and in their local businesses.

The Renters' Tax Credit has not been increased since 1979, and its purchasing power has significantly declined during a period in which California's housing costs have steeply escalated. SB 248 would increase the Renters' Tax Credit to the amount it was equal to in 1979 dollars, and it would require the Franchise Tax Board to update the amount annually to adjust for inflation.

The bill would also make the Renters' Tax Credit refundable, and it would double the of assistance the existing provides to a person with dependents. By enacting SB 248, California can make progress towards helping those in poverty and those struggling to get in – or even stay in – California's middle class.

California YIMBY is proud to support SB 248, which will make California's housing policy fairer and more equitable for people in the deepest poverty and for people in the middle class.

Best wishes,



Louis John Mirante
California YIMBY Legislative Director
louis@cayimby.org | (510) 908-0537