

June 18, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Support – SB 592 – Housing Accountability Act.

Senator Wiener,

I write on behalf of California YIMBY to support Senate Bill 592, which will amend the Housing Accountability Act to clarify that Accessory Dwelling Units, a key part of solving our state's housing puzzle, are protected by the Housing Accountability Act.

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, fight displacement, and fight for a California for everyone.

The Housing Accountability Act, originally passed in 1982, is the chief anti-NIMBY tool that the state has to compel jurisdictions to follow their own rules. The law establishes penalties for denying projects that are consistent with the rules that local governments have for housing, such as zoning.

SB 592 clarifies that these rules include those related to Accessory Dwelling Units. SB 592 does not change local rules, such as zoning. It ensures that the rules that exist are the rules that will be followed.

Unfortunately, the HAA is necessary to combat the vigilance of California's anti-housing communities. We are happy to see that SB 592 will ensure ADUs are included in its protections, because this will produce housing around the state in the areas it is most needed, high opportunity exclusionary communities. We thank you for your steadfast commitment to the issue of housing and urge your colleagues to support SB 592.

Best wishes,



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