Assembly Member Aguiar Curry,

On behalf of California YIMBY and The Two Hundred, we write to express our support for ACA 1, which would make it easier to build low-income housing in California.

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.

The Two Hundred is a state-wide coalition of community leaders, opinion makers and advocates working on behalf of low-income minorities who have been affected by California’s housing crisis and increasing wealth gap. An initiative sponsored by California Community Builders, The Two Hundred aims to mitigate the wealth gap through the advocacy of policies and laws that focus on the creation of homeownership opportunities for low income people of color.

California faces perhaps the most dramatic housing crisis in the country. According to the California Department of Housing and Community Development, more than 50 percent of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent, above the federally-recommended level. Almost one in three renters spends more than 50 percent of their income on rent, making them extremely rent burdened.

Affordable housing is an important component of serving the needs of these people. Current law requires that local affordable housing bonds receive two thirds of all votes of an electorate to pass. This discourages the construction of housing by making it difficult to raise the public subsidies these projects require.

In the November 6, 2018 election, three local communities, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz, all tried and failed to pass local housing bonds to support affordable housing solutions in their communities. Had ACA 1 been law when these propositions
were considered, each would have passed. Similarly, had either Proposition 1 or Proposition 2, the recently passed affordable housing funding proposals, been subject to two thirds vote requirement, they would have failed, leaving thousands of people on the street.

As policy makers work to end the housing crisis, we must make housing easier to build. This will require California to make it easier to approve funds for housing by passing legislation like ACA 1. We thank you for your work to accomplish this goal, and we are pleased to support ACA 1.

Best wishes,

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