March 10, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

California State Assembly

1021 O St., Ste. 4240

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2334 (Wicks) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

The California Housing Consortium and Housing California are proud to sponsor your bill, AB 2334, which will increase the supply of affordable housing by allowing all location-efficient 100% affordable housing developments qualify for the enhanced density bonus.

[ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

The pandemic has shown us all the essential role affordable housing plays in every California community — providing shelter, support, and community to some of the state’s most vulnerable populations, from seniors and veterans to teachers, firefighters, and many other hard-working families. California currently has a gap of 1.2 million homes affordable to lower-income households and on any given night, roughly 160,000 people in California experience homelessness. While the state has taken significant steps in recent years to address the housing and homelessness crises, there is much more to be done to make housing more accessible and affordable to lower-income Californians in every community — and to ensure housing solutions help the state achieve its climate goals.

AB 2334 does both, strengthening California’s Density Bonus Law provisions that allow developers to obtain more favorable local development requirements in exchange for offering to build or donate land for affordable or senior units. In 2019, AB 1763 (Chiu) amended Density Bonus law to allow 100% affordable housing developments to gain an 80% density bonus and no maximum controls on density if the development is also within one-half mile of a major transit stop or high-quality bus corridor.

AB 2334 builds on the improvements in Density Bonus Law provided under AB 1763 by allowing all location-efficient 100% affordable housing developments to qualify for the enhanced density bonus. Specifically, this bill would:

* Further incentivize infill development by allowing 100% affordable housing developments to have no maximum controls on density when located in a very low vehicle travel area, where the existing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita is 15% below the regional or city average
* Maintain existing authority of local governments in the development approval process
* Maintain existing maximum increase to building height limits under Density Bonus law
* Make additional technical changes and clean up to Density Bonus law

AB 2334 addresses the housing affordability crisis and furthers environmental sustainability goals by incentivizing infill development and densification of urbanizing communities that may not yet have high quality transit, but offer convenient access to jobs, retail, and services, allowing residents to drive less to reach their daily destinations. Encouraging higher density development in low-VMT areas will increase production of critical affordable housing while supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the exposure of low-income Californians to the impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[MUST INCLUDE SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[POSITION]

[ORGANIZATION]