

# City of Palo Alto

*Office of the Mayor and City Council*

June 19, 2019

The Honorable Jim Beall  
California State Senate  
State Capital Building, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
California State Senate  
State Capital Building, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
California State Senate  
State Capital Building, Room 3086  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Re: Support for SB 5 (Beall/McGuire/Portantino): Affordable Housing and Community  
Development Investment Program*

Dear Senators Beall, McGuire, and Portantino:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I am pleased to express our city's support for your SB 5. As you know, this bill will incentivize affordable housing and related infrastructure via a reduction in contributions of property tax revenue to schools, without affecting school funding levels.

Palo Alto has taken great strides to address affordable housing in our city. For example, this month our Council allocated \$10 million to the building of an apartment complex for low-income residents and adults with developmental disabilities, a previously-approved project. Last year, we adopted an Affordable Housing Overlay District, which allows for the development of 100% affordable rental housing in areas near transit not currently zoned for residential use. And we have amended other ordinances to relax local regulations related to parking, density, floor area ratio, and more.

As we continue to work towards creating additional housing in our City, we support your efforts in SB 5 to unlock revenue for housing and related infrastructure. This bill would allow the reallocation of funds to build new affordable housing, create transit-oriented developments, and for protecting communities from sea-level rise, wildfires, and floods. We are excited about the possibility of doing even more for our community, and we are happy to join with other cities, non-profit entities, labor groups, and others to support this bill.

Yours,



Eric Filseth  
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Cc: Members, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee; Senator Jerry Hill; Assemblyman Marc Berman; Palo Alto City Council; Ed Shikada, Palo Alto City Manager; Cities Association of Santa Clara County