



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Ben Allen  
State Capitol, Room 4076  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SCA 2 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Allen:

The California Housing Partnership is proud to co-sponsor SCA 2, your measure to repeal Article XXXIV of the California Constitution.

The Partnership is a state-created private nonprofit technical assistance organization that creates and preserves affordable and sustainable homes for Californians with low incomes by providing expert financial and policy solutions to nonprofit and public partners. Since 1988, the Partnership's on-the-ground technical assistance, applied research, and legislative leadership has leveraged more than \$20 billion in private and public financing to preserve and create more than 75,000 affordable homes.

At a time when California needs 1.2 million more homes affordable to lower-income households, we should be doing everything possible to support increased construction of such homes. Article XXXIV is an anachronistic provision that was intended to prevent low-income families, particularly families of color, from integrating exclusive communities and has no place in 21st century California. It is noteworthy that the original sponsor of Article XXXIV, the California Association of Realtors, is now supportive of its repeal. Moreover, this article adds to the cost of developing desperately needed affordable homes by causing delays and uncertainty that must be resolved by elections and by increasing attorney hours to document compliance. Lastly, the local land use and funding process already allows significant public comment on and engagement in proposed developments. Additional voter approval requirements provide no positive benefits.

SCA 1 will increase the number of homes available to lower-income residents and reduce the cost of development, helping us to ensure that lower-income Californians have access to safe, stable,

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affordable places to call home in every community across the state. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Stivers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stivers".

Mark Stivers  
Director of Advocacy