

Urban Village by the Bay

# ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY  
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE  
ALBANY, CA 94706  
[www.AlbanyCA.org](http://www.AlbanyCA.org)

February 3, 2020

Hon. Scott Wiener, Senate  
State Capitol Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Support for Senate Bill 50, the More HOMES Act**

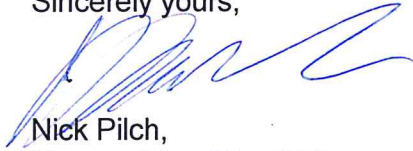
Dear Senator Wiener,

I write on behalf of the Albany City Council to express support for your efforts to address the urgent housing needs of the people of California through SB 50, the More HOMES Act. We believe that by making housing more abundant as contemplated in this legislation, California can significantly reduce the cost of living here. This is particularly needed if California is to be a place where middle income households can continue to thrive. We further agree that infill housing along transit corridors will aid our city, and the state as a whole, in our efforts to meet greenhouse-gas reduction goals.

It is our hope that as the bill continues the process on its way to Governor Newsom's desk, efforts will be made to address legitimate concerns raised by the League of California Cities. In particular, we believe (1) that it will be helpful to provide greater clarity as to how terms such as "Jobs Rich Area" will be defined, and how distances from rail stops are to be determined, and (2) that additional flexibility for cities in the transition from existing approved Housing Elements to the new rules should be considered, as a means to ease compliance without slowing housing production. This is particularly important for smaller cities like ours that have limited planning capacity and currently face daunting budgetary constraints.

While we share the concerns of the League of Cities mentioned above, we understand the need for this legislation to move forward. We therefore support SB 50, with confidence that critical definitions and the rules governing transition to the new system will receive additional consideration as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Pilch", written over the typed name.

Nick Pilch,  
Mayor of the City of Albany