**PLEASE ADD YOUR LETTERHEAD AND SEND EMAIL TO** **Radhika.Gawde@sen.ca.gov** **and SUBMIT TO** <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

DATE, 2024

The Honorable Scott Wiener

California State Senate

1021 O Street, Suite 8620

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 312 (WIENER) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: UNIVERSITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: EXEMPTION – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Wiener

On behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION], I write in support of Senate Bill 312, which will revise the exemption for a university housing development project to require each building within the project to qualify for certification as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold with a point total of 79 or better.

[OPTIONAL: INSERT BRIEF STATEMENT ABOUT WHY YOUR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS SB 312 AND/OR HOW IT WILL IMPACT YOUR MEMBERS. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT, PLEASE DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH.]

The housing crisis at California’s public universities is an imminent threat to the success of the next generation of Californians. However, the cost of housing makes a college education infeasible for many students and makes it harder for college faculty and staff to support our world-renowned public education system.

To address the growing student housing crisis, SB 886 (Wiener, 2022) provided a statutory exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges student and faculty housing projects under specified circumstances. However, one of the qualifications for these projects to utilize SB 886 is a requirement for all buildings to meet LEED Platinum certification, which includes numerous provisions to determine if a building qualifies for certification. Some of these determinations, however, cannot be made until the building is occupied.

SB 312 is a straightforward bill that addresses this timing issue by requiring that these buildings qualify for LEED Platinum certification rather than receive the certification, which can be achieved before occupancy.

For these reasons, [YOUR ORGANIZATION] supports SB 312 (Wiener).

Sincerely,

[Signature]

**[Typed Name]**