**PLEASE ADD YOUR LETTERHEAD AND SEND EMAIL TO**

[Steve.Wertheim@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Steve.Wertheim@asm.ca.gov) **and SUBMIT TO** <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

DATE, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

California State Assembly

1021 O Street, Suite 8140

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 609 (WICKS) CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT: INFILL HOUSING EXEMPTION – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

On behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION], I write in support of Assembly Bill 609, which exempts environmentally friendly housing projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), making California more affordable and resilient to climate change.

[OPTIONAL: INSERT BRIEF STATEMENT ABOUT WHY YOUR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS AB 609 AND/OR HOW IT WILL IMPACT YOUR MEMBERS. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT, PLEASE DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH.]

California’s housing shortage is exacerbated by CEQA’s redundant review process. While regional plans, housing elements, and local zoning laws must already comply with CEQA, most individual housing projects—even those fully aligned with local zoning and objective standards—must still undergo the same review. Some projects qualify for exemptions, but these are often too subjective or include costly labor standards making housing financially infeasible.

While CEQA effectively prevents negative environmental impacts, it is not designed to facilitate projects that are inherently beneficial to the environment. Infill housing near jobs, schools, and amenities—proven to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions—faces the same regulatory hurdles as sprawl developments that increase pollution and congestion.

AB 609 removes this roadblock by exempting environmentally friendly housing projects from CEQA, provided they are in infill locations and not on environmentally sensitive or hazardous sites. These projects must still comply with local general plans, zoning ordinances, and objective standards—all of which have already undergone CEQA review. To qualify, projects must meet minimum density thresholds (15 units per acre in urban areas, 10 in suburban areas, and 5 in rural areas) and be no larger than 20 acres.

For these reasons, [YOUR ORGANIZATION] is proud to support AB 609 (Wicks).

Sincerely,

[Signature]

**[Typed Name]**