**PLEASE ADD YOUR LETTERHEAD AND SEND EMAIL TO** Silverio.RizoLlamas@asm.ca.gov **and SUBMIT TO** <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

DATE, 2025

The Honorable Chris Ward

California State Assembly

1021 O Street, Suite 6350

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 253 (WARD) PERMITTING REVIEW ACT: RESIDENTIAL BUILDING – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Ward,

On behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION], I write in support of Assembly Bill 253, which will speed up the approval process for new homes by allowing home builders to hire a licensed and certified third-party reviewer for to expedite housing permit applications if the local government cannot or does not complete their permit review within 30 days.

[OPTIONAL: INSERT BRIEF STATEMENT ABOUT WHY YOUR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS AB 253 AND/OR HOW IT WILL IMPACT YOUR MEMBERS. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT, PLEASE DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH.]

California is currently experiencing a significant housing crisis characterized by an acute shortage of homes to meet the needs of its residents. Although various laws enacted in recent years have streamlined the process to legalize more housing developments (known as "entitlements"), many cities in California still face slow and unpredictable permitting and inspection processes after these entitlements are granted. On average, it takes 271 days—approximately nine months—to obtain a building permit for a fully-entitled apartment building with five or more units. This prolonged timeline for housing production can make it financially unviable for small, local builders, potentially jeopardizing smaller housing projects.

AB 253 aims to accelerate the availability of housing by allowing home builders to hire licensed third parties to review and approve permits for specific projects. This program is applicable to housing projects that consist of 10 units or fewer and are a maximum of four stories tall. The third-party reviewers must be licensed engineers or architects who have no financial interest in the projects or permits. By expediting the permitting process for fully entitled projects, policymakers can effectively increase housing production without incurring additional costs.

For these reasons, [YOUR ORGANIZATION] is proud to support AB 253 (Ward).

Sincerely,

[Signature]

**[Typed Name]**