

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill (AB) 2357 - Surplus Land - Support

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

On behalf of MidPen Housing Corporation, we write in support of AB 2357 (Ting), which will create more affordable homes for our communities by clarifying and strengthening critical provisions of the Surplus Land Act (SLA).

MidPen Housing is one of the nation's leading nonprofit developers, owners and managers of high-quality, affordable housing and onsite resident services. Since MidPen was founded in 1970, we have developed over 100 communities and 8,000 homes for low-income families, seniors and those with supportive housing needs throughout Northern California.

Redeveloping unused public land creates more affordable homes throughout the state and advances California's environmental and economic goals by increasing affordable infill development near transit and jobs. Using public land for the public good can ensure the state is better positioned to meet its low-income housing goals over the next decade.

AB 2357 will strengthen the Surplus Lands Act by closing enforcement loopholes in the SLA, creating an administrative declaration process for specific exempted lands, standardizing public notices of availability, close enforcement loopholes, and additional technical changes.

The bill works in partnership with local governments, by providing new streamlining opportunities for compliance with the SLA, thus ensuring they are not overly burdened with unnecessary bureaucratic processes. It also ensures that the spirit of the SLA is protected with improved enforcement protocols and standardizing the process of notifying affordable housing builders of land availability.

For all these reasons, we support AB 2357. Thank you for your leadership on these critical housing and homelessness issues.

Sincerely,



Matthew O. Franklin
President & CEO, MidPen Housing Corporation



Building Communities. Changing Lives.

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire
Senator Bill Dodd
Senator Jim Nielsen
Senator Steve Glazer
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Bob Wieckowski
Senator Scott Wiener
Senator Anna Caballero
Senator Josh Becker
Senator Dave Cortese
Senator John Laird
Assemblymember Marc Levine
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assemblymember Mia Bonta
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Assemblymember Bill Quirk
Assemblymember Kevin Mullin
Assemblymember Marc Berman
Assemblymember Alex Lee
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Assemblymember Mark Stone
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
Nevada V. Merriman, Director of Policy, MidPen Housing