

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
California State Assembly  
1021 O St, Ste. 4240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACA 14 (Wicks) The HOPE Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

On behalf of MidPen Housing Corporation, I am writing to support the HOPE Act, ACA 14, establishing a ten-year funding commitment to address the state's affordable housing and homelessness crisis.

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.

The pandemic has shown us all the essential role affordable housing plays in every California community — providing shelter, support, and community to some of the state's most vulnerable populations, from seniors and veterans to teachers, firefighters, and many other hard-working families. California currently has a gap of 1.2 million homes affordable to lower-income households and on any given night, roughly 160,000 people in California experience homelessness. The Governor and Legislature have demonstrated their commitment to addressing the affordable housing and homelessness crisis time after time in recent years, using budget surpluses to support some of our state's most effective housing programs with much-needed, one-time investments. ACA 14 will build on these efforts—and provide a permanent, ongoing source of funding at the scale needed to close our state's shameful gaps in affordable housing.

ACA 14 will dedicate five percent of the general fund for the next ten years to fund solutions to end homelessness and build affordable housing. Based on the 2022 budget revenues of \$200 million, this investment would be approximately \$10 billion each year. This constitutional modification explicitly protects existing constitutional budget commitments including funding for schools and the state's Rainy Day Fund. Additionally, the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency would be required to develop a ten-year investment strategy with outcome metrics to ensure that funding results in reduced homelessness and creates more affordable housing. A multi-year commitment of this scale will transform our state's approach to addressing the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

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