

July 26, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill (AB) 2021 - Support

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

MidPen Housing is proud to support your bill, AB 2021, which facilitates the purchase of tax-defaulted properties by non-profit entities that will use them to provide affordable homes.

MidPen Housing is one of the nation's leading non-profit 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 night, roughly 160,000 people in California experience homelessness. While the state has taken significant steps in recent years to address the housing and homelessness crises, much more must be done to make housing more accessible and affordable to lower-income Californians in every community.

Due to its complexity, the existing Chapter 8 tax sale process has not lived up to its potential. AB 2021 empowers non-profit affordable housing purchasers by increasing access to the list of properties for sale. The bill also will help address other barriers by convening a joint advisory group.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Matthew O. Franklin
President & CEO, MidPen Housing Corporation

cc:
Nevada V. Merriman, Director of Policy, MidPen Housing