

April 28, 2023

The Honorable Scott Wiener
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**RE: SB-83 Public utilities: postentitlement phase permit applications: new construction.
–SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Wiener,

MidPen Housing Corporation is proud to support SB 83 (Wiener), which would set clear timelines for IOUs to complete necessary interconnection work after a project has been green tagged.

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 125 communities and 8,500 homes for low-income families, seniors and those with supportive housing needs throughout Northern California.

Affordable housing developers, other builders, and energy infrastructure providers have noted that utilities often take longer than expected or promised to accomplish interconnection. Such delays hamper residential, commercial, industrial, and energy infrastructure that help advance the state’s climate and housing goals.

While project applicants have reported delays at various postentitlement phases, delays of new construction at the final energization stage are especially salient. As of February 2023, there were 134 construction-ready projects awaiting final energization by the state’s largest IOU – Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) – for longer than 8 weeks. These projects are completely constructed and ready for occupancy – they are just awaiting final run-through of wiring to connect or reconnect the project with the energy distribution grid.

SB 83 sets a clear, eight week timeline for IOUs to complete the necessary interconnection work after the project has been green tagged, and requires IOUs to financially compensate the project applicant in the event that the IOU exceeds the specified timeline. By requiring IOUs to complete the necessary work in a timely manner and setting consequences in the event that specified timelines are not met, SB 83 will improve the reliability and rate of new housing construction and energy upgrades, helping the state meet its housing and climate goals.

For these reasons, MidPen Housing Corporation is pleased to support SB 83 as it moves through the legislative process.



MidPen
HOUSING

Building Communities. Changing Lives.

Sincerely,

Matthew O. Franklin
President and CEO
MidPen Housing Corporation

cc:

Nevada V. Merriman, Director of Policy, MidPen Housing
Senator Mike McGuire
Senator Bill Dodd
Senator Susan Eggman
Senator Steve Glazer
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Aisha Wahab
Senator Josh Becker
Senator Dave Cortese
Senator John Laird
Senator Alex Padilla
Senator Diane Feinstein
Assemblymember Jim Wood
Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember Lori Wilson
Assemblymember Damon Connolly
Assemblymember Phil Ting
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