

June 15, 2023

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

RE: Assembly Bill (AB) 480 - Surplus Land - Support

Dear Assembly Member Phil Ting,

On behalf of MidPen Housing, I write as a proud sponsor in support of Assembly Bill 480. This important measure will create more affordable homes for our communities by clarifying and strengthening key 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 125 communities and 8,500 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. By using public land for the public good, we can ensure the state is better positioned to meet its low-income housing goals over the next decade.

AB 480 will strengthen the Surplus Lands Act by closing enforcement loopholes in the SLA, creating an administrative declaration process for specific types of exempt surplus lands, standardizing public notices of availability, and additional technical changes for consistency and clarity. 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 and making those notices available to the public.

This bill is an important step towards helping low-income Californians find stable housing opportunities. For these reasons, MidPen Housing supports AB 480 (Ting).

Sincerely,



Matthew O. Franklin
President and CEO
MidPen Housing Corporation