March 22, 2017

The Honorable Jim Beall
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 3 (Beall): Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Beall,

As mayors of California’s largest cities, we write in support of SB 3, which will place a $3 billion statewide housing bond on the November 2018 ballot.

California is home to all but nine of our country’s thirty most expensive rental housing markets. At the same time our state is home to 2.2 million extremely low and very low income renters, but only 664,000 affordable rental homes. Further, state funding to support affordable housing development has been reduced significantly. To meet the needs of our residents, it is clear that additional resources are desperately needed.

As mayors, we see the impact of this economic disparity first-hand — which is why we have engaged in numerous local efforts to address our affordable housing crises. However, cities still need additional resources to provide safe, quality, and stable housing that is affordable to our low-income earning residents to improve conditions for millions of Californians.

Not only will additional resources help our low-income residents, but building new housing will also support our state’s economy by creating jobs and labor income. Similar funding programs introduced under Proposition 46 and Proposition 1C have been instrumental in moving the needle toward creating more affordable communities in our state.

While we as Mayors realize the importance of a statewide housing bond, SB 3 will afford all Californians the opportunity to express their support for such a pressing issue. Thank you for introducing this important legislation.
Sincerely,

Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco

Libby Schaaf  
Mayor, City of Oakland

Sam T. Liccardo  
Mayor, City of San José

Robert Garcia  
Mayor, City of Long Beach

Miguel Pulido  
Mayor, City of Santa Ana

Eric Garcetti  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles