



Community, Equity, Action

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April 7, 2021

Hon. David Chiu, Chair
Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: OPPOSE AB 1398 (Bloom) as amended 4/6/2021

Dear Chairman Chiu,

Livable California is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization that represents over 10,000 Californians committed to critical aspects of state housing policies. We support truly affordable, sustainable housing legislation and land use and development decisions made at the local level of government.

We oppose AB 1398 on the grounds that it imposes unreasonable new burdens on local elected and appointed officials at a time when those officials already are overwhelmed, particularly in smaller and less prosperous communities.

Existing law provides localities with a much-needed grace period of four years to bring their housing elements into compliance with state law. Given the volume of new reporting requirements the state has imposed on cities in the past several years, and considering that cities are still grappling with myriad disruptions caused by COVID-19, this grace period is more important than ever. Cities cannot be expected to digest new state requirements and implement processes to fulfill them - and to do it in a fraction of the time in the midst of a historic global health crisis.

AB 1398 is unfair to cities and will lead to bad, rushed local policies and corresponding uncertainty at HCD. We oppose this bill and urge you to do the same. We stand ready and willing to work with you and your committee to craft better solutions to the state's housing affordability crisis.

Sincerely, The Board of Directors of Livable California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Hall", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Hall, President
T Keith Gurnee, Member
Carey White, Member
Isaiah Madison, Member

