



April 20, 2021

Hon. David Chiu, Chair
Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
State Capitol Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SUPPORT AB 561 (Ting) as amended 4/6/21

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Livable California, a nonprofit organization of more than 10,000 followers that advocates for empowerment of local governments to foster equitable, livable communities and truly affordable housing, supports AB 561 (Ting).

This bill would establish the California Help Homeowners Add New Housing Program within the Treasurer's Office, with the purpose of helping homeowners qualify for loans to construct additional housing units on their property, including accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADU). Moreover, by expressly encouraging the Treasurer to work with "private lenders, community development financial institutions, community-based organizations, local housing trust funds, joint powers authorities, regional housing finance authorities, and credit unions," the bill emphasizes local decision making and local democracy.

AB 561 is the right kind of solution to California's housing affordability crisis: It encourages existing homeowners to invest in their properties and

expand generational wealth, without imposing onerous, one-size-fits-all standards and mandates.

These kinds of bills advance equity and affordability. Livable California urges support for AB 561.

Very truly yours,

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