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February 11, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
 United States Senate
 SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of the *Affordable Housing Redevelopment Act*.

Thank you for proposing this legislation to address the affordable housing shortage in California and provide new housing units to serve the nation's low-income renter households. Despite efforts to reduce regulatory and other barriers to housing development, the County of Santa Barbara continues to see a deficiency in affordable housing stock, particularly for very low- and low-income categories due to the high price of land and lack of sufficient funding sources for affordable housing developers. This need for affordable housing has been greatly exacerbated by the crushing pandemic economic dislocation.

In addition, the provision of local affordable housing would have multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits. When affordable housing is available, homeowners are able to spend more of their income on goods and services (e.g., health and education costs), rather than housing costs, which provide economic advantages to the immediate community. Furthermore, affordable housing accommodates individuals with a variety of skills that are critical to the community (e.g., teachers, nurses, and construction workers), and creates a more economically and socially vital community. The provision of housing for these income categories also would reduce the number of those who must commute relatively long distances to their place of employment, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled, traffic congestion (primarily along State Route 101), and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for proposing the *Affordable Housing Redevelopment Act* to provide additional federal support for this critical need.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest
 Washington Representative

DWG: awg