Please place letter on your organization’s letterhead

*E-mail the letter to:* *graciela.castillo-krings@gov.ca.gov* *and cc:* info@nonprofithousing.org

DATE

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Governor of California

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Request for your signature on SB 2 (Atkins), The Building Homes and Jobs Act - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of ORGANIZATION NAME, we write to respectfully request your signature on SB 2 (Atkins), the Building Homes and Jobs Act. California desperately needs the jobs and affordable places to live that this important legislation will help to generate.

1 or 2 sentences about your organization.

[Use if your organization is Bay Area-based; if not, delete]: The Bay Area is facing a housing emergency. While we believe that everyone should have access to a safe and affordable home, our region has fallen behind on creating these opportunities: Between 2007 and 2014 the region permitted just 29% of its low and very-low income housing need. In addition, the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward metropolitan area has the unenviable distinction of having the sixth lowest homeownership rate in the county. Most of our families struggle to afford the cost of living in their local communities, including 50% of our moderate-income families. The most vulnerable of them risk joining the 30,000+ Bay Area residents who are already homeless on any given night.

This crisis has a direct toll on our economy as well. California loses $140 billion per year in output (or 6 percent of state GDP) due to the lack of affordable housing. Rents and mortgages within the reach of working families are critical to maintaining California’s business competitiveness. Prominent business groups across the state including the Bay Area Council agree that California needs to increase affordable housing options, so companies can compete for the talent that drives California’s economy.

The Building Homes and Jobs Act will:

* Generate hundreds of millions of dollars in state investment and leverage significant additional funding in federal, local, and private investment.
* Create an estimated 29,000 jobs for every $500 million spent on affordable housing, primarily in the construction sector.
* Deploy these dollars throughout California using a successful private/public partnership model, creating jobs and generating revenue for local governments.
* Build safe and affordable apartments and single-family homes for Californians in need, including families, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.
* Help businesses attract and retain the talent that fuels California’s economy.

The Building Homes and Jobs Act establishes an ongoing funding source that helps the state live within its means by imposing a $75 fee on real estate transaction documents, excluding residential and commercial property sales. This fee proposal also enjoys the support of the California Association of Realtors as they recognize that it will increase California’s supply of affordable homes, create jobs, and spur economic growth without incurring additional debt.

With funds from successful state housing bonds running dry and the complete elimination of redevelopment, the availability of state dollars to leverage federal funds and private investment is the lowest it’s been in years. This threatens housing production and the jobs that go with it. Failure to act now will leave too many Californians without an affordable place to call home and make it difficult for California’s businesses to remain competitive.

We urge you to sign crucial piece of legislation. Thousands of California families are counting on it.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION