PLACE ON LETTERHEAD

[Insert Date]

The Honorable Scott Wiener

California State Senate

1021 O Street, Suite 6630

Sacramento, CA  95814

**Re: Senate Bill (SB) 1336 - Housing Production on Religious Properties - Support**

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of [Organization Name], we write in support of SB 1336 (Wiener) which would make building affordable housing easier, faster, and cheaper on land owned by faith-based institutions and nonprofit colleges by removing zoning and use restrictions.

[Include 1-2 sentences to briefly describe your organization: You may include how many people you serve and where, how many people you employ and where, etc.]

Many faith-based organizations and non-profit colleges desire to partner with affordable housing developers to build more critically needed affordable homes -- on land they already own, in support of their missions. These faith-based organizations, as long-standing community anchors, wish to support their congregations, neighbors and families.

Yet, many of these organizations are currently located in areas that are not zoned to permit housing, requiring a difficult, lengthy, and costly process to rezone the land to build the affordable homes Californians desperately need. SB 1336 offers new tools for our community anchors to build safe, stable, affordable homes for local residents and families

SB 1336 will streamline the building process so that faith-based institutions that want to build affordable homes will not be unnecessarily delayed and limited from taking this action.

SB 1336 will:

* Allow places of worship to build 100% multifamily affordable housing units (targeted at 80% of Area Median Income and below), regardless of local zoning restrictions;
* Permit these institutions to build new affordable homes without undergoing costly and time intensive rezoning, depending on the location of the property and proximity to major roads and commercial zones.

We know that our California families and workers need more safe, stable, affordable homes. With SB 1336, places of worship and colleges that want to provide more affordable homes will be able to do so no matter what the local zoning is.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical housing and homelessness issues and for all these reasons, we support SB 1336.

Sincerely,

[Insert Your Full Name]

[Insert Your Title]

[Insert Your Organization’s Name]