



February 23, 2016

Chair Hass Members of the Committee:

On behalf of SEIU Local 49 and SEIU Local 503 and more than 60,000 union members we represent, we support SB 1533 with the –A6 amendments.

Workforce housing is critical to union members and their families. Over the last several legislative sessions many unions have been part of a coalition to lift the ban on inclusionary zoning. We feel like a policy that has the potential to increase the housing supply for union families and the families that our members serve and care for is good public policy. As the housing crisis continues to rage in many communities we feel strongly that it's time for the legislature to act.

Over the last month the Senate and House have been working to try and develop a package on housing proposals to increase the supply of workforce housing around the state. Although SB 1533 is not an ideal bill; we believe has problems for many parts of the state given the minimum number of units and we are still concerned about the definition of affordable housing we believe that –A6 amendments bring more clarity and will provide some flexibility to both the builders, the local jurisdictions and working families over how the projects pencil out.

Although we are not happy with everything that is proposed in the –A6 amendments we feel that the bill, along with the modest rental protection in HB 4143, will be a step forward for the workforce caught in the middle and who continue to struggle to find affordable housing.

We look forward to working next session on a more comprehensive package regarding housing affordability.

Sincerely,

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