



September 2, 2021

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 8 (Skinner) – Housing Crisis Act of 2019 – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR’S SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on SB 8 (Skinner), to extend the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 to continue to streamline the development of homes in California by prohibiting local actions that reduce housing capacity.

California continues to face a severe housing shortage and affordability crisis. Rent and home prices remain too high because we have failed to build enough housing for decades. Since it passed in 2019, the HCA has enabled homes to be built with shorter delays and fewer costly obstacles. It requires local governments to process housing permits that meet existing rules faster, not change the rules midstream, and hold off on actions that would decrease or delay housing. This is the same streamlining approach that cities have used to recover from fires or other disasters. The HCA also includes anti-displacement measures.

The HCA will expire in 2025. SB 8 extends the HCA's applicability to new housing development projects for five more years through 2029, and its enforcement provisions through 2033, and adds clarifying language to ensure that the bill's original intent to streamline production of housing that meets a local jurisdiction's existing zoning and other rules is met. To ensure that housing projects are not mired in bureaucratic red tape SB 8 clarifies guidelines around replacing low-income homes with homes that serve special populations, and which types of existing homes the HCA protects.

Housing projects of any size, either ministerial or discretionary, can benefit from these clarifications of HCA's protections related to hearing limitations, the procedures for determining completeness of an application, anti-displacement and other issues.

The League of Women Voters of California strongly supports SB 8 and requests your signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg".

Carol Moon Goldberg
President