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February 26, 2021

Senator Scott Wiener
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 477 – Housing Data Collection

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to support SB 477, which will require the state's Department of Housing and Community Development to collect better information from local governments about when state housing programs are used to support new homes.

California adopted several laws recently to help the state resolve its historic 3.5-million-home shortage, including Accessory Dwelling Unit law, Density Bonus Law, and laws to streamline the process for getting homes approved. These laws are important, but advocates, researchers, and legislators struggle to quantify exactly how effective they are, or how they can be further improved.

Circulate San Diego has first-hand knowledge of the need for better data collection for home production. In 2020, Circulate released two reports, [Good Bargain](#), and [Equity and Climate for Homes](#). Those reports provided the research to support the introduction and adoption of Assembly Bill 2345, one of the most significant home production bills signed into law by Governor Newsom last year.

In order to collect the data to create Circulate's policy reports, we had to visually inspect scores of paper development files, (some stored away under San Diego Stadium!) and hand-code them into our own database. With more consistent and organized data reporting from local governments, advocates and policymakers will be able to do the analysis needed to achieve even more improvements to housing policy in the future.

SB 477 will resolve this data gap by requiring more information on California's existing Annual Progress Report, which local governments already send to the state every year to demonstrate their progress towards meeting their Regional Housing Needs Assessments.

Sincerely,

Colin Parent
Executive Director and General Counsel