



April 16, 2019

Hon. Laura Friedman, Chair  
Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**OPPOSE - AB 1191 (Bonta) Removal of Tidelands Trust at Port of Oakland**

Dear Chair Friedman,

We, the undersigned, represent a coalition of community leaders, neighborhood groups, and residents who have been a part of East Oakland communities for decades and are strongly opposed to AB 1191 (Bonta). AB 1191 is scheduled to be heard before your committee on April 22nd and claims to facilitate the beneficial development of affordable housing, commercial real estate, and a world-class stadium at Howard Terminal. However, the legislation will ultimately lead to the construction of luxury homes current residents cannot afford, a major loss of critical waterfront jobs, and the abandonment of the East Oakland community.

Currently, Oakland has a major affordable housing shortfall with only 7% of the buildings slated to be built reserved for low-income families. The lack of prioritization on affordable housing in Oakland – and East Oakland especially – threatens to price out current residents who cannot keep up with rapidly growing Bay Area housing prices. Gentrification has only compounded this issue. We do not need a piece of legislation that will only exacerbate the effects of gentrification with additional luxury homes instead of investing in affordable housing in areas that need it most.

Instead of forcing a choice between the well-being of current Oakland residents and a world-class stadium suitable for the Oakland A's, there is the ideal option of redeveloping and investing in the existing Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

The Coliseum has been home to the Oakland A's since they played their first game there in 1968, and both the stadium and the team are integral parts of East Oakland's identity and history. In particular, the Coliseum brought with it initial promises of new public transit and affordable

housing that justified using eminent domain to displace East Oakland residents many decades ago. AB 1191 is essentially forsaking this part of East Oakland's legacy, a legacy that should be reinvigorated with new economic opportunity. Having the Oakland A's remain and redevelop the current site with additional housing and commercial real estate will honor that legacy and eliminate the myriad issues tied to the waterfront. East Oakland deserves the revitalization a world-class stadium surrounded by housing, shopping, restaurants and entertainment could bring. It would be, ultimately, an investment into the East Oakland community.

With this in mind, we ask that you and the legislature halt AB 1191's efforts to abandon East Oakland residents and instead endorse a revitalization plan in an area that needs it most.

Sincerely,

Bishop Robert "Bob" L. Jackson  
Senior Pastor  
Acts Full Gospel Church of God in Christ

Pastor L.J. Jennings,  
Senior Pastor  
Kingdom Builders Christian Fellowship

Cc: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Members, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Assemblymember Rob Bonta