

Proposed letter stating support for Assemblymember Wicks package of legislation supporting faster processing of housing requests.

To be addressed to all assembly members and state senators representing Contra Costa County.

The Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) advises the Board of Supervisors on matters related to the planning, development, and administration of programs for older adults and adults with disabilities. Please note that any comments, recommendations, opinions, or positions expressed by the ACOA or its members do not represent the official position of the County or its officers.

We are writing in support of the package of legislative bills being introduced in the State Senate and Assembly aimed at improving the efficiency of the review, approval, and construction of new housing. Known as the **“Fast Track Housing Package,”** this collection of twenty-two complementary bills is designed to streamline the housing approval process without compromising environmental or safety standards.

Led by Assemblymember Wicks whose recognition that the current approval process is not working is the basis for this “Fast Track Housing Package”. Through a bipartisan and bicameral approach, the strategy is taking meaningful steps to reform the system and accelerate the development of new housing projects. As outlined, the “Fast Track Housing Package” addresses five key bottlenecks in the approval process—application, CEQA compliance, entitlement, post-entitlement, and enforcement. These bills aim to eliminate inefficiencies at each of these stages, thereby reducing project timelines, lowering costs, and enabling faster housing development.

The lack of affordable housing is a critical issue affecting communities across California, particularly in Contra Costa County. The package of bills reflects a deep understanding of the housing development and approval process and it is a bold initiative to “reset” the system that is both far-reaching and well-supported on both sides of the aisle.

The Advisory Council on Aging appreciates Assemblymember Wicks for sponsoring and organizing this comprehensive legislative effort to increase the availability of new and affordable housing in our county and across the state and we are requesting your support in voting for this package of legislation.

Respectfully,

Lorna VanAckeren

President