



January 17, 2025

The Honorable Chris Ward
California State Assembly
1021 O St., Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 6 (Ward): Residential developments: building standards: review

Dear Assembly Member Ward,

On behalf of the Council of Infill Builders, a statewide organization of real estate professionals committed to improving California through infill development, I write to support Assembly Bill 6, which would convene a working group to research and recommend amendments to state building standards to encourage construction of more multifamily residential developments, as well as require a review of construction cost pressures for single-family and multifamily residential construction as a result of new or existing building standards.

The Council of Infill Builders and its members have found that the state's current building standards are too often unnecessary and counter-productive, placing unreasonable burdens on infill housing production that have stymied production and helped contribute to the state's extreme shortage of homes. And now with the devastation caused by the fires in Los Angeles, fast-tracking new home-building through building code reform will be even more important to meet this urgent need.

We commend this bill for creating a process that could potentially lead to multiple reforms, potentially starting with data collection on how state building standards affect infill housing production, a necessary first step in assessing the severity of the problem. We also hope that any such working group formed under this bill include experts from other states or countries with best practices for building code development, adjudication and enforcement, with the goal of producing a set of recommendations for California to implement. Our organization would be pleased to assist with these efforts, such as by convening a roundtable of developers to discuss ways to better align the state's housing production goals with the building code.

We believe AB 6 could provide an important vehicle for enacting badly needed and overdue reforms to state building standards. For these reasons, we strongly support AB 6. The Council of Infill Builders thanks you for your work to address this critical need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mott Smith".

Mott Smith, Chair, Board of Directors
Council of Infill Builders