

April 25, 2019
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Dear Governor Newsom:

I am concerned about housing. The growing US wealth gap is nowhere more obvious than in the bay area. Combined with our fraying safety net people are losing such basic aspects of human dignity as health care and housing. The hundred dollars per person per day spent to address homelessness in SF suggests a will to act. Recent reports however find the problem increasing with Alameda (here) particularly shocking. At the same time coastal population growth is stagnant. A lack of housing and the resulting prices are clearly driving both trends. Both are also obvious with people forced to sleep outside where I catch the train and the even higher prices in SF driving interesting people and small companies over here to Oakland. For two years SB50 has been stalled by a combination of nimbyism and jealous guarding of local control. I have seen other regional projects destroyed by local veto power and your experience at both levels positions you well for action. SB50 is a clear case where state control would help.

Please assure me that you will prioritize housing with SB 50.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive policies.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson