



January 26, 2016

The Honorable Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Chair, Housing Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St., Room 460
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: House LA

Dear Member of the Housing Committee,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, I respectfully submit this letter in support of the House LA plan. LA is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis where more than 50% of its residents are struggling to pay the high housing costs found throughout the City. Many of the 600,000 hardworking Angelenos that we represent are dedicating an ever-growing share of their hard earned salaries on exorbitant rents. We believe that the House LA Initiative has the potential to provide regulatory and administrative solutions that are necessary to expedite and increase the amount of housing created. Such a scenario could also create thousands of good, living wage jobs in the construction and maintenance of units.

We are aware that the City is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan that addresses the acute shortages in public funding and incentives to build and maintain affordable housing for our poorest residents. House LA policies, such as utilizing City-owned parking lots to build affordable units or developing viable ways to permit diverse housing types, are practical and innovative steps that could provide permanent shelter for thousands of residents most in need.

We look forward to working with Councilmember Cedillo and the Housing Committee to develop solutions to the City's affordable housing crisis. Now is the time for our City leaders to act decisively to ensure that those who care for our sick, protect our communities, teach our children, and prepare our meals can also afford to call LA home for years to come.

In Solidarity,

Rusty Hicks
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

cc: Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember Curren Price
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
City Clerk