



April 16, 2024

Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1187 – Tribal Housing Reconstitution and Resiliency Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Pro Tem McGuire,

On behalf of All Home, I am writing in support of SB 1187, the Tribal Housing Reconstitution and Resiliency Act, your bill that creates a new housing program by and for Tribes. This program will provide Tribes with equitable access to financing for safe, affordable, and sustainable homes for low- and moderate-income tribal members and non-Native employees of tribal governments and enterprises in a manner respectful of Tribal sovereignty and cultural heritage.

**All Home advances solutions to disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness and to create more economic mobility for people with extremely low incomes in the Bay Area and across the state.** We know that California's Native communities bear a disproportionate burden because of our long history of state-sponsored genocide, land theft, displacement, and marginalization.

According to CSH's *California Homeless Housing Needs Assessment*, homelessness among Indigenous people is up to double that of the general population, with some counties reporting that more than half of those experiencing homelessness were Indigenous. Census data further confirmed that, in addition to disproportionate rates of homelessness, Indigenous households have much higher rates of poverty, overcrowded or substandard homes, inferior water and sewage systems, and failing or nonexistent infrastructure. **One third of Tribal residents live below the federal poverty line, approximately 9% of tribes in California have homes that lack complete plumbing and 7% lack complete kitchens.**

Despite recent Tribal set-asides and legislation making tribes eligible for most state housing programs, the existing housing and community development programs don't fit Tribal needs and conditions, and have failed to address these issues as a result. Most Tribes do not apply

because applications are onerous, and they cannot dedicate the upfront staff and funds required. As of 2023, only 13 of the 109 Tribes have succeeded, most of whom are larger Tribes with funds for full-time housing staff and expensive consultants. Furthermore, existing programs are in conflict with Tribal sovereignty, laws, and culture, which necessitates requests for time-consuming waivers from program rules.

Administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and modeled after federal Indian Housing programs and state programs like the Joe Serna, Jr., Farmworker Housing Grant Program, **SB 1187 creates a separate, flexible, and comprehensive housing program specific to tribal needs.** Because the Tribal Housing Reconstitution and Resiliency Act is designed by Tribes for Tribes, it does not try to impose a non-Native model of housing and community development on Indian lands. SB 1187 is more than just the establishment of another state program; it's a step toward reparations for Natives and amending the historic displacement of Indigenous communities by providing them resources to meet their housing needs.

SB 1187 brings us closer to equitable solutions for California's Tribal communities, who have been excluded from the conversation around housing for too long. For all these reasons, we are proud to support SB 1187 and thank you for your leadership on these critical housing and homelessness issues.

Sincerely,



Brett Andrews  
Interim Chief Executive  
All Home