



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

February XX, 2026

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: (H.R. 6644) the Housing for the 21st Century Act – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Lofgren and Representative Panetta.

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 6644, the Housing for the 21st Century Act. As you are aware, the housing affordability crisis is an untenable issue in the County of Monterey as many of our hard-working community members continually strive to find stable housing for their families and community resources are stretched to the limit, unable to help all residents. This is why we are supportive of Congress's proposed solutions in the Housing for the 21st Century Act.

The bill is a community-centered approach to expanding housing opportunities to all communities and we believe that the bill offers a comprehensive set of solutions to reduce barriers and increase housing supply. We appreciate that the bill does not propose a singular fix, but takes into account the fact that needs and solutions vary by locality.

We are supportive of the provisions which expand the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program to address the gaps in workforce housing and expand the eligible uses for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. We appreciate that the bill reduces bureaucratic barriers such as National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements which can help localities build affordable housing more quickly, and without the added costs of unnecessary compliance.

We appreciate that the bill will help modernize codes to promote housing development by providing planning and implementation grants to regional planning agencies and explore the possibility of a uniform federal building code. This will provide an incentive for the County to review our existing zoning frameworks and to work with other local partners to support smart and sustainable growth.

Further, the bill will support rural housing needs by expanding access to the USDA's Section 504 Home Repair program and will reduce barriers to manufactured housing by revoking HUD certification requirements for manufactured homes. Finally the bill will expand eligibility for veterans housing services, ensuring housing for those who have sacrificed for our county.



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We urge you to vote “aye” on H.R. 6644, and support its passage or advancement in any internal discussions, floor votes, or negotiations with the House. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I thank you for your continued support of this important matter impacting residents of the County of Monterey.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Wendy Root Askew, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, Senator for California
The Honorable Adam Schiff, Senator for California