



Chico Builders Association 121 Yellowstone Dr, Chico, CA 95973

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March 28, 2019

Assemblyman James Gallagher
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0003

RE: Support for AB 430 (Gallagher) Camp Fire Housing Assistance Act of 2019

Dear Assemblyman Gallagher,

On behalf of the membership of the Chico Builders Association, I am writing to support AB 430, the Camp Fire Housing Assistance Act of 2019. The Camp Fire destroyed over 14% of the key housing stock used by the heart of our economy: our workforce and consumer households. It will be 3-7 years before that housing stock is rebuilt in quantity; it could easily take over a decade. In the meantime, those workers and consumers need somewhere to live.

The Chico Builders Association (CBA) membership is comprised of the local building industry and our work is targeted toward making building affordable. The elements of the cost of construction (land, lumber, labor, lending, litigation and legislated costs) have each escalated every year, resulting in a cost-to-build that puts new housing beyond the reach of middle income households. CBA works to deescalate costs by speeding up processes and slowing fee and regulatory expansion.

One of the greatest expenses in development is the Unknown. Among the Unknown are delays and frivolous lawsuits that will pop up at various stages of the permitting process. AB 430 gives assurance of a streamlined permitting process for those housing developments that are zoned appropriately on suitable land. By reducing some of the Unknown, the risk of cost overrun is reduced and building can start faster. This is urgently needed in Butte County right now. The shortage of housing in California is adding to an already epidemic status of homelessness. We need to be able to speed up the process and cut expenses wherever possible to help combat this issue.

AB 430 is reasonable legislation that will encourage more builders to invest in housing. If a streamlined permitting process makes sense to get a stadium built faster, it sure makes sense to get housing rebuilt faster. Our economy and our Camp Fire Victims are counting on something, **fast**.

If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Leyden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kate Leyden
Executive Director
Chico Builders Association