

A grassroots coalition of concerned citizens challenged the deep pockets of a bad idea ... and won!

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SB50 was stopped in the Senate, which is good news for California.

A Better Way Forward to House California (betterwayca.org) was formed to develop a housing program that addresses the needs of all Californians and all communities. SB827, and its child, SB50, clearly were aiming at the wrong target. SB50 was never an affordable housing bill, it was a luxury housing bill. We, like the majority of California's voters, know the real issue is affordability. Tearing out single family homes in modest areas and replacing them with luxury multi-family units does not house those who live in these neighborhoods today.

A Better Way provided detailed analysis of the shortcomings of SB50 as this flawed bill was dominating the housing discussion with a distorted picture of its impact on California. By taking facts to those who make decisions, we contributed to the process of understanding the bill. Better Way CA informed thousands of people who picked up on the implications of removing local zoning rules to produce luxury housing in densely populated areas. Thousands responded.

A Better Way now looks forward to working with CA state legislators and their staff who are interested in moving forward with a program that addresses California's real housing needs:

- We advocate for helping people find the down payment for purchasing a home.
- We, like 84% of Californians, want to see commercial development in areas where jobs are needed and housing is available at an affordable price.
- We want to encourage the State to fund infrastructure (transit, schools, utilities, fire and police) that supports added housing in urban areas where it is desired and needed.
- We support application of anti-trust laws to the rental and sale of residential housing to help the market function better.
- We propose a progressive vacancy tax on density bonus luxury tower apartment units that remain unoccupied for more than 1 year, so the rents are lowered until someone in the community can afford them.
- We support financial and technical support to help individual homeowners to build more ADUs faster in exchange for making the ADU affordable and subject to rent control.

A Better Way is working with a few Senators and Assembly members to turn good ideas into good bills. We look forward to working with others on a fresh start to solving the real causes of California's housing problem.

We thank all of those who participated in letting Senators know their feelings on this bill. In the end, the power of the people prevailed in a battle with special interests.