



BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
of Philadelphia

February 25, 2021

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia (BIA), I am writing to ask you to support HB518 and expand the availability of affordable housing in Pennsylvania.

The BIA is a trade association of residential and mixed-use developers working throughout the City of Philadelphia. Our membership currently includes LIHTC and workforce housing providers and the BIA wants to lead the growth of affordable housing development by the private sector. HB518 would provide additional options for the City to incentivize affordable housing and help our members meet the growing demand for affordable housing of all kinds.

In Philadelphia, many residents are struggling to pay for housing, especially the lowest-income households. With 25% of the population living in poverty and more than 60,000 people on the wait list for public housing according to the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the need for the private market to deliver more affordable rental and for-sale units is critical.

HB518 would provide a menu of options for each municipality to pass tax abatements or exemptions for the creation or improvements of affordable housing, be they for sale or for rent. Use of these abatements is entirely up to the local policymakers, and in some cases, offers various exemption schedules to tailor the tax relief to particular needs and budgetary constraints.

The BIA thanks Representative Solomon for his work on this issue and for introducing HB518, giving the City of Philadelphia an opportunity to support the development of affordable housing by our members in the private sector.

Sincerely,

Leo Addimando
President

