

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 4062  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4028  
FAX (916) 651-4928

DISTRICT OFFICES  
45-125 SMURR STREET  
SUITE B  
INDIO, CA 92201  
TEL (760) 398-6442  
FAX (760) 398-6470

25186 HANCOCK AVENUE  
SUITE 320  
MURRIETA, CA 92562  
TEL (951) 894-3530  
FAX (951) 894-3536

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.**  
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



September 21, 2017

VICE CHAIR  
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& WATER

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BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
PUBLIC SAFETY

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Veto Request – Senate Bill 2 (Atkins)**

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Senate Bill 2.

SB 2 imposes a \$75 tax on every real estate document required to be recorded in a real estate transaction. Yes, *another* tax on Californians instead of focusing on the underlying causes of the high housing costs that shut low and middle income families out of the housing market.

It's absolute laziness. If we are to truly address the issue of affordable housing in California, we should talk about real reform of our permitting process. In Riverside County, it currently costs developers well over \$100,000 per door in permits and fees before any construction begins.

This Legislature has shied away from tackling broad efforts to increase housing supply, such as overhauling the California Environmental Quality Act or reforming the tax code to incentivize residential development.

Instead of reaching into the pockets (again) of our low and middle class residents, why hasn't the Legislature tackled some real common sense solutions that would make housing more affordable for ALL Californians?

I think it is time that we stop asking hard working Californians to bail out our faulty policies. I say instead it is time that we take a realistic, albeit difficult, look at what steps need to be taken to reform some of the policies that we have put in place that have caused housing to sky-rocket in this state.

I thank you for your time to read this letter and am available to answer any questions if they arise. I can be contacted at (916) 651-4028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone".

Jeff Stone  
Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District