

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 736 (Wicks), as amended on April 10, 2025
Pending Referral in the California State Senate
Position: Support if Amended

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

My name is Brett Lee and I was the Mayor of Davis from 2018 to 2020. As a mayor in a university town, I know first-hand what a positive impact a university can have on the surrounding community and region.

The partnership between the City of Davis and UC Davis yielded many positive benefits for both of our communities. One of the areas where our close cooperation yielded benefits was around housing policy. Working with the university, we were able to have coherent shared goals on the provision of additional housing both on campus and off campus.

I know from direct experience that state policy can have an important and very real impact on the provision of additional housing for all of our communities.

I am writing today to express my appreciation for your leadership in confronting California's housing crisis. I recognize AB 736, the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026, as an important step forward.

However, I would respectfully request that this measure be amended to include public higher education institutions—particularly the University of California and California State University systems—as eligible recipients of bond funding for housing.

Students across the UC system, our future workforce, face an affordability crisis. California's economic future is dependent on the ability for UC and CSU to drive economic mobility, and that means students must have affordable housing options.

Excluding higher education from the housing bond framework would be a missed opportunity at a time when California cannot afford to overlook all housing solutions.

Davis has had direct experience with the University building housing for students, which has added capacity in the housing market which has benefitted both long-term and short-term residents, which ultimately has benefitted our entire community.

If AB 736 is amended to include dedicated funding for student housing at public colleges and universities, it would send a clear message that California values its students as part of the solution to the housing crisis and our shared economic prosperity. And from a practical perspective, it will help create additional housing that will benefit us all.

I welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure California's housing solutions include all of us, students as well as non-students.

Thank you!

Brett Lee
Longtime Davis Resident
Former Mayor of Davis 2018-2020
Davis City Councilmember 2012-2020