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COMMITTEES  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
  
SELECT COMMITTEES  
CHAIR, HOUSING CONSTRUCTION  
INNOVATION  
CALFRESH ENROLLMENT AND NUTRITION  
DOWNTOWN RECOVERY  
HOUSING FINANCE AND AFFORDABILITY  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
  
CAUCUSES  
VICE CHAIR, BAY AREA CAUCUS  
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
WOMEN'S CAUCUS

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

### Select Committee on Housing Construction Innovation

The purpose of this Select Committee is to determine how the State can play a role in reducing housing costs by facilitating innovation in housing construction. Such innovation is necessary because California continues to face a massive shortfall of housing, which fuels the State's affordability crisis and has led to over 180,000 people living unsheltered in our communities. In the past decade, the legislature has passed myriad reforms to address this crisis, including vastly increasing the amount of land zoned for housing, and providing certainty and timeliness to the approval process. Yet, we are not yet witnessing the increase in production that we desperately need to bring down housing costs.

A major reason that we are not building enough housing is the lack of increased productivity in housing construction. Whereas over the last century, almost everything in our society has seen vast increases in productivity due to new technologies, housing is largely built the same way it was a century ago. Yet, as exemplified by successes in such countries as Sweden and Japan, it is possible to bring down costs through widespread use of innovative methods such as the use of prefabricated parts and modular housing. Additionally, there is burgeoning potential to reduce costs through the use of new materials and construction methods, as well as the application of technology in the design and review process. California has long been a leader in innovation in many other sectors, and this is the perfect time to take leadership in innovation in housing construction as well.

To fulfill its purpose, the Select Committee will undertake extensive interviews with practitioners and industry experts, conduct tours, hold hearings, and produce a white paper. All of this will be in service of building consensus and creating a policy agenda for 2026 and beyond that would support the application of housing construction innovation to reduce housing costs and increase affordability. I envision this select committee as the natural next step in addressing our housing crisis, in which we are focused on cost containment in the construction phase. In doing so, we will be better prepared to help deliver the housing Californians need and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buffy Wicks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Buffy Wicks  
Assemblymember, 14<sup>th</sup> District