

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Statement on Affordable Housing

"As a State Representative, activist and real estate professional in the Austin area, I am well aware of the affordability crisis our region is facing. I have a long and proven record of supporting those most in need.

"Since I took office in 2014, I have supported the new construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing by helping secure approximately \$2.4 million in tax credits for qualifying projects. These awards will build or rehab about 151 units of affordable housing in the coming years and, when considered over their total ten-year equity period, these tax credits will amount to \$24 million towards affordable housing projects in House District 50.

"When scoring a project submitted by residential developers, The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) considers 25 different criteria. These criteria range from financial feasibility to tenant services. In many cases, even in this cycle, projects are awarded tax credits without letters of support from a State Representative.

"In the case of the proposed project at 3300 Oak Creek Drive, they were awarded 124 points out of 177 possible points. I chose to remain neutral and declined to write a letter of support or in opposition to the project because I did not feel like this project met enough of the criteria necessary to garner my full support. Most important to me, the proposed development site was not served by public transit and was not safe or accessible for pedestrians.

"This cycle, I wrote a letter of support in favor of project #16099 (SEA RAD Oaks) located in the Jollyville area west of Mopac. I am happy to report that TDHCA has recommended that the project be awarded funding.

"This fall, the Art at Bratton's Edge will open in House District 50, a project which I wrote a letter of support for in 2014. Additionally, I helped lead the charge to protect the Muller Foundation Affordable Homes Program, ensuring that over 300 homeowners and their families did not lose their homes due to unfair property tax rates.

"I know that at times it is hard for some advocates in the daily fight for affordability to imagine, but not every project with "affordability" in the title is a winner. I look forward to helping to continue to create actual affordability for our residents most in need."