

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Rob Bonta  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2148  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re:AB 1191 (Bonta) State Lands Commission: exchange of trust lands: Howard Terminal property: Oakland Waterfront Ballpark Act.**

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

On behalf of the board and staff at Playworks, I want to express our support for AB 1191 (Bonta).

AB 1191 (Bonta) is intended to support the development of the Howard Terminal site in Oakland to include a baseball ballpark for the Oakland Athletics, as well as much needed housing and retail, including affordable housing and mixed-use development that will provide access to the waterfront.

The State Lands Commission, BCDC, the Port of Oakland, the City of Oakland, and the Oakland A's team have been working collaboratively on the format of this legislation.

The Oakland's A's have publicly committed to transforming an industrial site through environmental clean-up with private dollars that will allow access to the waterfront and increased public usage.

The proposed bill does not reduce or remove State Lands Commission oversight. Rather, it would require the Commission to approve the trust-consistency of the project and to approve any exchange or boundary settlement agreements that it finds to be in the best interests of the State and the public generally.

The Oakland A's have committed to a full EIR process that is underway now, as well as numerous other environmental commitments such as: LEED Gold standards; net GHG neutrality; environmental justice, including measures to improve air quality (such as providing 50% local offsets), provide new waterfront access that will serve the West Oakland community, as well as a package of community benefits including important job opportunities for local residents; investing of millions of dollars to clean the Howard Terminal site; and providing public waterfront access and open space to a park poor neighborhood.

AB 1191 is the major step in keeping the Oakland Athletics "Rooted in Oakland." I want to thank you for your leadership on this important issue and for your efforts for Oakland and the region.

Sincerely,

Jill C. Vialet  
Founder and CEO

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**Jill Vialet**

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