

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 52 (Pérez) – Housing rental terms: algorithmic devices. – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wicks,

Omidyar Network, a California based philanthropic and investment organization committed to elevating humanity's interests and role in how technology is governed and held accountable, supports SB 52, which would address the use of modern technology in price fixing in the rental housing market.

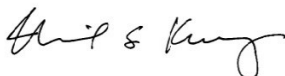
Omidyar Network's philanthropic and investment efforts have continued for more than two decades and stem from our founder's work at two great California companies, PayPal and eBay. We envision a world where our shared humanity steers our digital future. So far, we have committed more than \$1.94 billion to initiatives that share our vision.

Enacted in 1907, the Cartwright Act aims to protect Californians from the harmful effects of antitrust and anti-competitive behavior. However, while the law has remained largely the same since its formation, the world has undergone a digital revolution. Real estate giants have begun utilizing AI-powered rent setting tools to inflate rent prices beyond what is fair and colluding with competitors to sustain it. Despite the Cartwright Act clearly addressing anti-competitive practices, it does not explicitly account for the development of modern technologies like AI and algorithms, leading landlords to argue these laws do not apply.

SB 52 will modernize and clarify the Cartwright Act to address the use of algorithmic collusion in the rental housing market. By clarifying that price fixing through algorithmic collusion is just as illegal as traditional price fixing, this measure will ensure that the intent of our antitrust law is realized. The measure also provides for enforcement by public prosecution as well as private right of action.

Ensuring that our antitrust laws keep up with technological advancements is crucial to preventing powerful entities from abusing their market power. SB 52 ultimately protects renters and our economy, bringing us one step closer to a future of shared power and prosperity. **For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for this important measure.**

Sincerely,



Mike Kubzansky
CEO, Omidyar Network

cc: Senator Sasha Renée Pérez
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee