



**NRDC**  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEFENSE COUNCIL

March 28, 2024

Senator Dave Min, Chair  
Natural Resources and Water Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 6710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1077 (Blakespear) ADUs and JADUs in Coastal Zone - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Min and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and NRDC Action Fund, we are writing to respectfully oppose Senate Bill 1077 by Senator Blakespear. NRDC advocates for coastal and ocean protection and equitable access to California's 1,100 miles of beloved shoreline. We also work to mitigate greenhouse gas and air pollution with a variety of strategies, including ensuring access to affordable housing near transit, schools, parks, and other community resources.

Approved by the Legislature in 1976, the Coastal Act protects public access to our iconic and public coastline. The Legislature declared the law as necessary to ensure "the permanent protection of the state's natural and scenic resources" which it describes as a "paramount concern to present and future residents of the state and nation." SB 1077 would weaken the Coastal Act by exempting the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) from the purview of the Coastal Commission.

The Coastal Commission plays a critical role in evaluating projects in its jurisdiction and balancing economic development, housing needs, public access, natural resource protection, and the impacts of climate change happening along our coast. Exempting ADUs and JADUs from Coastal Commission jurisdiction would compromise the protections provided by the Coastal Act and is unnecessary. Housing opportunity, a public coastline and protected ecosystems are not mutually exclusive. We would be happy to work with the author and stakeholders on the issues contemplated in SB 1077 but as currently written, we must oppose the bill. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Victoria Rome  
CA Govt. Affairs Director

Joel Reynolds  
Senior Attorney

Cc Senator Blakespear