



Dear Chair Harrington and Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

On behalf of the Code Enforcement Outreach Program (CEOP) and the SRO Collaboratives—including the Mission, Chinatown, Central City, and SRO Families United Collaboratives—we are writing to strongly urge the Taskforce to keep the Building Inspection Commission's current authority and responsibilities intact. We also urge you not to eliminate or merge any parts of the Building Inspection Commission (BIC). Any proposal to fold the BIC into another body or the removal of its functions would undermine the vital protections and oversight that San Francisco voters intentionally created, and that our communities continue to rely on today.

The CEOP and SRO Collaboratives work directly with residents of single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels through a comprehensive, community-centered, peer-to-peer model focused on habitability, housing stability, and tenant empowerment. Additionally, CEOP works to make all kinds of residential buildings throughout the City safe, habitable, and code compliant. CEOP plays a critical role in supporting both tenants and owners while fostering effective collaboration with the Department of Building Inspection that results in quick abatements. Through peer-to-peer tenant outreach, we help tenants and property owners navigate code enforcement issues and bring buildings into compliance.

As community members and stakeholders who have witnessed firsthand why the BIC was created and secured the proposition that created BIC, we want to emphasize that its existence is not bureaucratic redundancy—it is a safeguard born from experience. Prior to the passage of Proposition G in 1994, San Francisco's housing codes were chronically unenforced. Tenants, particularly monolingual residents, suffered severe health and safety risks while the City failed to hold negligent actors accountable. After years of inaction, the ballot measure created both the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) and the Building Inspection Commission precisely to solve this problem.

The results were transformative. Tenants became a priority. Bad actors were held accountable. And more importantly, both tenant and landlord groups supported the creation of the Commission then and continue to support its role today. The current system works, and we should not change what is functioning effectively.

BIC meetings are attended by the DBI Director and staff, ensuring that commissioners and the department hear public concerns directly. Tenants, builders, property owners, and community organizations depend on this

accessible forum. Without the BIC, these voices would be diluted or lost entirely within larger, less engaged bodies.

Decisions of this magnitude require input from those most affected, including tenant groups, community advocates, and historically marginalized residents who rely on the Commission's essential oversight. Eliminating the functions or merging the BIC would not streamline the city government, it would weaken accountability and put the health and safety of residents at risk. The Commission is doing the job it was created to do, and we urge you to keep it intact and to not make any recommendations that could repeat the failures of the past.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Anti-Displacement Coalition
Affordable Housing Alliance
Asian Law Caucus
Mission Action
Chinatown Community Development Center
Tenderloin Housing Clinic
Central City SRO Collaborative Program of Tenderloin Housing Clinic
SRO Families United Collaborative
Housing Rights Committee of SF
San Francisco Apartment Association