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Senator Powell and Representative Edmonds Celebrate Passage of Bill Boosting Affordable Housing Opportunities

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – State **Senator Bobby Powell (D-West Palm Beach)** and **Representative Jervonte Edmonds (D – West Palm Beach)** on Tuesday applauded the final passage of legislation designed to free up excess state-owned land for the construction of affordable housing.

“Florida’s success hinges on our workers’ success,” said **Senator Powell**. “The crisis in affordable housing has grown so dire that we need every tool at our disposal to make a dent in the shortfall that has plagued this state for years. This legislation promises to be one of the best methods to quickly rebuild Florida’s inventory.”

"Access to affordable housing is critical to the success and well-being of our communities," said **Representative Edmonds**. "I am proud to have sponsored this bill, which will help to facilitate the creation of more affordable housing options across the state of Florida. My hope is that it will serve as a model for other states across the country."

SB 678/HB 763 allows the state Department of Transportation to transfer at no cost unused property to government entities exclusively for the creation of affordable housing. **SB 678** unanimously passed the Senate in April. **HB 763** unanimously passed the House earlier today.

"I believe that access to affordable housing is a fundamental right," added **Representative Edmonds**. "I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that all Floridians have access to safe and affordable housing options."

If signed by the governor, the new law will take effect on July 1, 2023.

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