

The tax deduction for mortgage interest is an indefensibly stupid public policy. It's regressive: nearly all the benefit goes to affluent households who don't need the help. It further reinforces and entrenches racial disparities, doubling down on systemic racism that has boosted white households' wealth through homeownership, while denying the same benefits to households of color. And it serves no purpose: reams of evidence from the US and around the world show that it has no discernible effect on increasing homeownership.

I remember the first time I learned someone can take the deduction on a second home. I was incredulous. I remain (many years later) incredulous and outraged. It's long past time to curtail the mortgage interest deduction, and SB 852 is a meaningful step in that direction.