

Dear (INSERT NAME OF LEGISLATOR),

As a resident of the Washington area who is concerned about the alarming rate at which we have lost affordable housing units over the past few years, I urge you to consider prioritizing the preservation of existing affordable housing and the production of new, affordable housing in your program and funding decisions in the coming year.

While many jurisdictions in our region have been strong supporters of affordable housing projects over the years, recent economic challenges have caused many to scale back their funding for this and other human services needs. Still, many people cannot afford to live and work in the Washington region. Our neighbors may live in overcrowded conditions; they may spend more than what is considered affordable to have a place of their own; they may even be homeless. Such circumstances can compromise every other goal that people may have for themselves, such as getting a better job, furthering their education, stabilizing their children in a school district, overcoming physical and mental health issues, or saving for a house, their children's college education, or for retirement. Safe, affordable housing should not be a privilege for our neighbors it should be the standard.

Lack of affordable housing threatens our region's vitality, and I hope that you will confirm your commitment to supporting healthy, thriving families and communities by supporting affordable housing efforts in the coming year.

Thank you for considering my views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Your name]