



Dear County Council,

The Whatcom Housing Alliance wishes to express its wholehearted support for the proposed resolution to allocate Economic Development Investment Funds for Affordable Housing in Whatcom County. We believe that this initiative is not only a vital step towards addressing the urgent need for affordable housing in our community but also a wise investment in the economic and social well-being of our region. The Whatcom Housing Alliance comprises a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from local non-profits, businesses, and concerned citizens. Our common goal is to ensure that everyone in Whatcom County has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. We recognize that affordable housing is a fundamental component of community health, economic vitality, and social equity.

The proposal to allocate Economic Development Investment Funds for Affordable Housing, as brought forth by Chair Buchanan and councilmember Galloway, aligns perfectly with the goals and objectives of our organization and the broader goals of Whatcom County, in the middle of a housing crisis. Here are a few reasons why we firmly endorse this resolution:

1. **Addressing a Critical Need:** Whatcom County, like many communities across the nation, faces a housing affordability crisis. Accessible and affordable housing is essential for the well-being of our residents, and it is a foundational element of a thriving community.
2. **Economic Benefits:** Investments in affordable housing stimulate economic development. Construction, property management, and housing-related services create jobs and generate revenue, contributing to the overall economic health of our region.
3. **Social Equity:** This initiative is an important step towards promoting social equity. It ensures that vulnerable and underserved populations can access stable housing, thereby reducing disparities and improving overall quality of life.

We commend the Whatcom County Council for recognizing the urgency of this issue and taking concrete steps to address it. We believe that allocating Economic Development Investment Funds for Affordable Housing demonstrates both vision and dedication to the well-being of our community.

In closing, the Whatcom Housing Alliance, offer our full support to the proposed resolution. We urge you to consider the profound positive impact this initiative will have on our community and to take this important step towards a more equitable and prosperous future for Whatcom County. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our community's well-being. We look forward to witnessing the positive changes that this resolution will bring to Whatcom County.

Sincerely,

Whatcom Housing Alliance Steering Committee

Whatcom Housing Alliance Members

