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August 19, 2022

Dear Mr. Sidhu

WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

I am interested in serving on the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority of Whatcom County. I strongly believe EVERY person should have an opportunity to live in an affordable home and should be provided with opportunities ensuring access to do so. I am keenly aware of current housing programs and issues as I have been serving the developmental disability community for the past twenty years and I have experienced the challenges and frustrations this population continually faces when dealing with safe, secure and affordable homes. I also have a firsthand understanding of programs and issues as I have two adult children who are currently dealing with housing challenges. The first one is a lower income worker looking to be a first time home buyer. The second one is a young man with a physical and developmental disability who uses a wheelchair and is in the process of looking into safe affordable housing solutions.

I am very eager to assist in charting the direction of current and future programs to help underserved deserving populations. Some of my strengths include an ability to communicate effectively with high level government officials and other individuals at all levels as well as understanding explicit, as well as implicit, political organizations. I am also able to negotiate well and organize time, activities and people.

My personal history includes an M.S. in Public Health and a background of community development as the Director of Bureau of Health Promotion and Education for the Salt Lake Valley Health Department. Assuring the planning, development and implementation of resources, time, equipment and facilities. Implementing policies and procedures, as well as preparing annual plans and budgets. I have also served on State and National Developmental Disability Boards and am currently serving on the Whatcom County Developmental Disability Advisory Board.

Our family moved to Whatcom County about four years ago and we now consider this our home. Our long term home. We love it so much here we are going to stay when my husband retires. We are fortunate enough to live in a home we own and we are able to build another home when retirement comes. We started out as lower income workers and we know what it's like to struggle and find your way. I believe everyone deserves the opportunity to be home owners and I want to help guide the process for our community.

It's all about opportunity. Opportunity for people to thrive by ensuring access to quality, affordable homes that are safe and secure. I don't believe that is too much to ask for our most vulnerable populations in Whatcom County.

Thank you for your consideration of an appointment to the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority of Whatcom County.

Sincerely,

Valerie Billmire

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