

**October 25, 2021**

**To: Whatcom County Council**

**From: Whatcom County Business and Commerce Committee**

**RE: Letter of support for the EDI proposed update**

Dear Councilmembers,

The Whatcom County Business and Commerce Committee has voted (7-0-4 unanimous vote in support of opposition with four absences) to write a letter of support urging the Council to approve the EDI board proposal regarding the Infrastructure Improvements for Affordable Workforce Housing Program.

Our committee believes that the proposed edits directly address and take into consideration the committee's past recommendation to County Council regarding the Affordable Housing Crisis in a memo submitted on June 6, 2019, which is also attached. Specifically, the proposed changes to the EDI program will help provide infrastructure and resources to increase housing availability (recommendation #3) and it will help reduce government fees for housing development (recommendation #4).

The proposed changes are a great first step in addressing Whatcom County's ongoing housing crises and we urge Council to take immediate action to approve the EDI's Board's proposal.

Sincerely,

Clark Campbell, Recreation  
WCBAC Co-Chair

Sarah Rothenbuhler, Other for profit  
WCBAC Co-Chair

The voting committee members who voted yes to support the statement, in addition to the two Co-Chairs listed above (followed by the sector that they represent on the Committee):

Ryan Allsop, Other for profit

Casey Diggs, Retail

Andrew Gamble, Energy

Troy Muljat, Other for profit

Brad Rader, Agriculture

Voting members absent from the meeting (and therefore vote) include:

Debbie Ahl, Healthcare

Bob Pritchett, Internet technology

Paul Burrill, Marine trades

Pete Dawson, Commercial real estate