



Denny Heck

Lieutenant Governor



Coalition for Housing

December 20, 2022

Dear Legislators:

We, the undersigned, believe the facts are clear: Washington state is suffering a housing crisis brought about by a significant shortage of homes. This crisis rises to the level of an emergency and demands strong state action.

The housing crisis, which has been growing worse for more than a decade, manifests in several ways harmful to our state and its citizens:

The lack of affordable housing is especially damaging to low-income families as their rents have risen much faster than their incomes – more families have become rent-burdened, and more families continue to become homeless as a consequence.

Older adults, especially those on fixed incomes, face unique housing challenges and threats to aging in place in the communities they prefer.

Traditional and systemic means of discrimination against BIPOC families and especially Black families are being perpetuated in ways that severely limit BIPOC homeownership which remains a fraction of white family ownership.

Lack of access to workforce housing encourages housing sprawl along with the concomitant environmental damage and the permanent loss of food-producing lands.

Underproduction of new homes is a material factor in slowing economic growth.

Accordingly, we support strong state action by the 2023 Legislative Session in the following areas:

Enactment of zoning reforms that will enable increased production of homes, and especially more home choices in proximity to jobs, schools, transit, and services – such as Middle Housing, ADU's, and Transit Oriented Development.

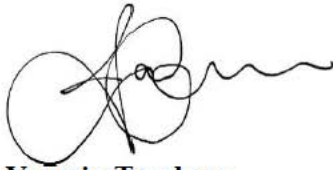
Enactment of equity-based measures designed to increase all forms of homeownership, with a focus on BIPOC family homeownership to help close the racial wealth gap, which is largely a consequence of the housing gap.

Enactment of measures designed to lower the costs of construction such as permitting reform and condominium liability reform.

A significant increase in public sector investment in affordable housing and other housing stability programs.

The magnitude of the challenge is great and requires a response commensurate in size – comprehensive and ambitious. We need to build a lot more housing opportunities for all our neighbors and we must act now.

Sincerely,



Yasmin Trudeau
Senator



Denny Heck
Lieutenant Governor

Senator Noel Frame
Senator Liz Lovelett
Senator Sharon Shewmake
Senator Jeff Wilson
Senator Lisa Wellman
Senator Claire Wilson
Representative My-Linh Thai

(In alphabetical order)

AARP Washington

Amazon

American Farmland Trust

**Building Industry Association of
Washington**

Climate Solutions

Fuse Washington

Futurewise

**Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King
& Kittitas Counties**

**Housing Development Consortium
of Seattle-King County**

**Master Builders of King and
Snohomish Counties**

Microsoft Corporation

**Natural and Built Environments
LLC**

**Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of
Commerce**

SEIU 1199NW

SEIU 775

SEIU 925

Sierra Club Washington State

Sightline Institute

**Spokane Low Income Housing
Consortium**

Tacoma Housing Authority

**Washington Build Back Black
Alliance**

**Washington Homeownership
Resource Center**

**Washington Low Income Housing
Alliance**

Washington Realtors

**Washington State Community
Action Partnership**

**Washington State Labor Council
AFL-CIO**