

King County Affordable Housing Committee

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

We are writing to thank you for your sponsorship of the “Promoting Affordable Housing Near Transit Act.” The scale of the housing affordability crisis demands collective action, and we appreciate your leadership.

Addressing the issue of housing affordability requires multiple sectors and all levels of government to participate to help struggling families find and keep homes that they can afford to live in. In 2019, over 156,000 more affordable homes were needed in King County than were available and an additional 88,000 are needed by 2044 to ensure low-income and working households are not cost burdened.

Creating affordable housing near high-capacity transit stations is a policy priority in King County, as the cost burden of housing plus transportation can substantially be reduced by locating affordable housing near reliable, frequent transit.

Rising demand to live in communities with great transit access is leading to displacement pressures. In many regions, including King County, transit agencies and their partners are looking to repurpose surplus property near transit stations as affordable housing to help existing low-income populations stay in their communities and benefit from the transit that was built to help serve them, increase transit ridership, and address regional affordable housing needs.

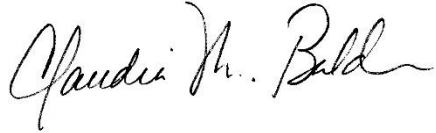
Your bill, the “Promoting Affordable Housing Near Transit Act,” will provide additional tools to local transit agencies in creating affordable housing on their property. This legislation will allow transit agencies to more efficiently and cost-effectively donate surplus property acquired with federal funds to entities that are creating affordable housing.

We will continue to advocate for tools and funding to address the affordable housing crisis. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Working together, we can find creative and

efficient ways to create additional affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Members of the King County Affordable Housing Committee



Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Chair, Affordable Housing Committee



Nigel Herbig
Deputy Mayor, City of Kenmore

Mark Ellerbrook

Mark Ellerbrook
King County Division Director
Housing, Homelessness and Community Development



Teresa Mosqueda
Councilmember, Seattle City Council



Stephen Norman, Executive Director
King County Housing Authority



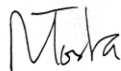
Tanika Padhye
Council President, City of Redmond



Lynne Robinson
Mayor, City of Bellevue



Peter Rogoff
Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit



Nancy Tosta
Councilmember, City of Burien



Brett Waller
Director of Government Affairs
Washington Multi-Family Housing Association

Cc: Members of the King County Delegation